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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART V.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF KOWEIT.

1903.

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CONFIDENTIAL.Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs
of Kuwait.PART V.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st December, relative to Kuwait affairs.

India Office, January 1, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 31, 1902.

IT is reported by O'Connor that the Porte confirms the news that Amir of Nejd is approaching Kuwait. The Vizier was informed by O'Connor that we would defend Kuwait. Instructions have been sent to the Vali to prevent hostilities.

No. 2.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 2, 1903.)

Sir,

Admiralty, December 31, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter dated the 21st ultimo, from the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Cossack," reporting on affairs in the neighbourhood of Kuwait.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Commander Cartwright to Rear-Admiral Drury.

Sir,

"Cossack," at Bushire, November 21, 1902.

IN continuation of my General letter of the 18th October, 1902, I have the honour to report that:—

1. Two gun-boats not being required in the Shat-al-Arab, I ordered His Majesty's ship "Redbreast" to Muscat, to cruise for the suppression of the Slave Trade, in accordance with your Memorandum of the 24th September, 1902. She sailed from Fao on the 30th October, and arrived at Muscat on the 3rd November, from whence she started her cruising on the 6th November, returning to Muscat on the 11th November. I inclose her letter of proceedings, and also a letter concerning slave cruising at this period of the year. As the utility of further cruising is doubtful, I am telegraphing to you on the subject.

2. His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" arrived at Bussorah with witnesses from Koweit on the 20th October, and returned with them to Koweit on the 10th November. After landing the witnesses and placing the captured dhows in temporary charge of Sheikh Mubarak, she sailed for Bushire on the 11th November, arriving on the 12th November, sailing again for Bombay on the 19th November.

3. I proceeded to Koweit on the 12th November, to survey the shoal which "Lapwing" found had formed off Ras-al-Ary, and returned here on the 19th November. A special report will be forwarded concerning this shoal when the plan is completed. The shoal extends fully a mile outside the position marked on the chart.

4. His Majesty's ship "Assaye" arrived at Bushire on the 18th November, and sailed for the Shat-al-Arab on the 19th November. Letters of proceedings are inclosed.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, returned to Bushire, from Shiraz, on the 1st November, and proceeded in Royal and Imperial Majesty's ship "Lawrence" on a cruise to Bahrein and the Pirate Coast on the 20th November.

6. On the 18th November, Sheikh Mubarak received a letter from Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud to say that, after a long engagement, he had defeated Bin Raschid, the Emir of Nejd, at a place called Dillum, which is about one day's march south of Riyadh. Bin Raschid lost over 250 killed, and was pursued in a north-westerly direction for five days by Abdul Aziz, who captured many horses, camels, tents, &c. Bin Raschid is now supposed to be at Ghassib [?], which is about eleven days' march north-west of Riyadh. Abdul Aziz, the son of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal, captured Riyadh last January, since which time he, his brother, Mahomet, and his father, have been collecting their forces. Abdul Rahman, who is the brother of Abdullah-bin-Feysal, the last of the Wahaba Emirs, is most friendly with the Sheikh of Koweit, with whom he was living up to January last, and if Bin Raschid, the present Emir of Nejd, is entirely crushed, the position of Koweit will be much strengthened, for it is doubtful if the Turks would ever attempt to interfere with that place if they knew that the Arabs in Nejd would support Koweit, as it would probably jeopardize their position at El Hassa and Katif.

7. Mahomed-bin-Saoud, the second son of Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal, has lately been at Koweit, but left for Riyadh about the 6th November. Mubarak, while owning that Mahomed had come north with the object of securing the assistance of various Arab tribes, denies that he personally gave him any reinforcements. This assertion on the Sheikh's part is doubtful, as the townspeople declare that Mahomed not only received a considerable force of riflemen, but actually attacked the Shummar tribe, who own allegiance to Bin Raschid, and brought the looted camels, &c., into Jehara (west end of Koweit Harbour). Although Mubarak has been warned by the Political Resident not to take any part in the present quarrel, it is likely that his sympathy with Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal will be shown more in an active than a passive manner, for if his enemy, the Emir of Nejd, gets the best of this quarrel, he will most probably again turn his attention to Koweit.

8. The health of the ship's company remains good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. G. CARTWRIGHT,
Commander and Senior Officer, Persian Gulf.

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 1st January, relative to a report that the Amir of Nejd is in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

India Office, January 2, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 1, 1903.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 28th December:—

"Amir of Nejd is reported in a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to have arrived within a distance of twelve hours from Koweit. Other reports have also reached me from Koweit that he had entered the territory of the Sheikh, but had been driven back; also that the Sheikh had left Koweit to repel him. But, so far as these reports indicate the Amir's presence in person, their truth appears to me to be doubtful."

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 4, 1903.

MY telegram No. 145 of the 30th December: Koweit.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs as follows, under date the 2nd January:—

"Porte's statement that Amir of Nejd had defeated Bin Saoud is not, I think, correct. Amir's attack on Riad failed, and all he did was to raid a hostile tribe while returning. An officer was sent by the Vali to communicate order to return home; this would seem to have had an effect as the Amir, according to the most recent information, has retired to a considerable distance. Yusuf, under the pretence of a journey to Mecca, has joined the Amir."

No. 5.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, January 5, 1903.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, December 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I received a visit to-day from Ahmed-el-Atman, a confidential man of the Sheikh of Koweit, who had previously come to Bussorah in charge of the Koweit witnesses against Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, brought here by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing." He informed me that he had been sent by Sheikh Mubarek to carry his reply to various telegrams and letters from the Vali of Bussorah ordering him to send his witnesses up for examination, but that this reply was to be shown to me first, and not to be presented to the Vali unless I approved of its tenour.

On perusing the letter, I found that after some lines of invective against Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, the Sheikh stated that the witnesses had already been sent to Bussorah and had given their depositions before the British Consul, so there was

nothing more to be said. He concluded by accusing the Vali of being actuated by spite against himself.

I told Ahmed-el-Atman that I thought it would have been better for the Sheikh to have confined himself to informing the Vali that the witnesses had been sent to depose before the Turkish judicial authorities on certain conditions which he, the Sheikh, considered essential to their safety, and that as the Vali had declined to accept those conditions they had been forced to return, and could not again be sent up. Mubarek's opinion of Yussuf was already well known, and it seemed to me a pity to embitter his relations with the Vali by a charge of personal malice.

He replied that under these circumstances he would not deliver the letter, but would return to Koweit and report to the Sheikh what I had said. Another point on which he was charged to ask my advice was regarding the manner of addressing the Sheikh which the Vali employed, viz., as "Mubarek Pasha, Kaïmakam of Koweit." Ought he not to take this up?

I replied that there was nothing new in this form of address, which had always been employed by successive Valis in writing to the Sheikh, and that I did not think that there was any pressing need at this particular moment to challenge their right to make use of it, and that the Sheikh ought not to do so without instructions. At the same time he should do nothing himself, by signature or otherwise, to indorse the title given to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 6.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 5, 1903.)

(No. 570.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 30, 1902.

WITH reference to my dispatch No. 529 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that he understood from the Grand Vizier that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the Sheikh of Koweit's two nephews, who were all mixed up in the filibustering expedition of last September from Dora, would be expelled from the neighbourhood of Bussorah.

Upon my questioning his Excellency more precisely, he seemed vague as to the precise terms of his Highness' communication, and I said I would ask the Grand Vizier to be good enough to show me the orders he had sent to Bussorah.

Tewfik Pasha then proceeded to inform me, in connection with this question, that news had just been received that the Amir of Nejd, Ibn Rashid, had defeated Bin Saood, and was advancing with his troops upon Zobeir and threatening Koweit, but that the Grand Vizier would be able to give me fuller information.

On calling upon his Highness, he informed me that he could not ask the Council of Ministers to approve of the expulsion of Yusuf Ibrahim and his associates until he received the reports of the Vali of Bussorah. They were with the Minister of the Interior, and he had requested Tewfik Pasha to procure them and to make a careful précis of their contents, so that he could present the question to his colleagues at an early date. He had, however, taken upon himself at once to instruct the Vali to discover and severely punish all persons who had taken part in this expedition. He knew that it had cost the life of a British sailor and that two others had been wounded, and although he believed that the occurrence took place outside Turkish waters, he recognized that Ottoman territory should not be made the base for an attack upon Koweit, and he hoped to be able to tell me soon that Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews had been expelled from Bussorah.

I said that I could not undertake to say that my Government would be satisfied with this reparation, but that if it were not given very soon I would make other demands which might not be so agreeable, and I therefore urged his Highness to consider the matter very seriously.

The Grand Vizier then went on to say that he had received news that Ibn Rashid, the Amir of Nejd, was advancing upon Zobeir and threatening Koweit. He had immediately telegraphed to the Vali of Bussorah, without even waiting to communicate with the Sultan, to remind the Vali that the Ottoman Government were bound in virtue of an agreement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of

Koweit, and that he was to take immediate steps to prevent the Amir attacking that place.

I thanked his Highness for the energy he had shown, and expressed the sincere hope that his instructions would have the desired effect, as otherwise there might be serious complications, inasmuch as His Majesty's Government would protect the Sheikh of Koweit from attack.

I did not enter into a discussion as to how far Ibn Rashid's movements had been encouraged or abetted by the Ottoman Government, as I felt sure that this was a question which had been secretly handled by the Palace, and of which substantial proof would be very difficult, but I tried to convince his Highness that it was a grave business, and I have little doubt that he reported in this sense to the Sultan.

I had had no news of the progress of hostilities between Ibn Rashid and Bin Saood since the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 183, Secret, of the 14th instant, reporting that Saood had defeated Ibn Rashid, until I received to-day Mr. Wratislaw's telegram of the 27th instant, of which I gave the substance to your Lordship in my telegram No. 145, confirming the Porte's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 7.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, January 7, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 7, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 31st December.

Telegram from Wratislaw communicated by Kemball on the 3rd January reports the Amir of Nejd to have gone home.

No. 8.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 12, 1903.)

(No. 68.)

Sir,

Bussorah, December 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that five days ago Bedouins, stated, I believe with truth, to belong to Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, attacked herds belonging to Zobeir at four hours' distance from that town. They carried off a number of camels and sheep, many of the latter being the property of the Nakib of Bussorah.

During the skirmish which accompanied this incident, Mubarek-el-Atbi was wounded in the leg by a bullet. This man is a malcontent relation of Sheikh Mubarek, who makes common cause with Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephew. He was engaged in the abortive expedition to Koweit which was encountered by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and has joined with the Amir's Representative, Khalid-el-Own this summer in organizing the raids on Koweit flocks, which I have already reported to your Excellency.

The captured camels and sheep are said to have been taken to Koweit. The inhabitants of Zobeir have presented a Petition to the Vali asking for redress.

It is a matter for regret that this incident should have occurred after your Excellency's representations to the Porte against the raids from Zobeir, of which I had

sent Sheikh Mubarek word, and at the same time told his messenger that we could not countenance any reprisals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 6, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 570 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that the Grand Vizier had, after the Council of the day before yesterday, instructed the Minister of the Interior to order the Vali of Bussorah to expel Yusuf Ibrahim and the two delinquent nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit from the neighbourhood of Bussorah. I subsequently ascertained from the Grand Vizier that these instructions had been sent.

I have already reported to your Lordship that, apart from this reparation in connection with the attempted filibustering expedition against Koweit of the 3rd September, the Vali had been instructed to discover and punish all persons mixed up in this affair.

If these orders are duly executed, and I propose to instruct His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to report to me on this point, I have no doubt that the local effect will be satisfactory, and, with your Lordship's approval, I propose to wait for further information before deciding upon the necessity or expediency of demanding the recall of the Vali.

I have, however, thought it well, upon being informed yesterday of the action taken by the Grand Vizier, to state to his Highness that I could not answer for it that this would be sufficient reparation for the outrage attempted and the loss of life, but that I would refer the question to your Lordship.

Some credit, perhaps, should be given to the Sublime Porte for the energetic steps they took to prevent Ibn Rashid advancing upon Koweit, as reported in Mr. Consul Wratislaw's telegram No. 77, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 1 of the 4th January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 10.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1903.

WITH reference to my letter of the 13th instant relative to Koweit, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a further despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† reporting that instructions have been sent to the Vali of Bussorah to expel from the neighbourhood of that place Yusuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of Sheikh Mubarek, who were implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Connor to the Grand Vizier, as reported in his Excellency's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th January, and his proposal that the question of demanding the recall of the Vali of Bussorah should be deferred for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Also to Admiralty, *mutatis mutandis*.

† No. 9.

No. 11.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 16.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 14, 1903.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station has reported that the two dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" have been destroyed by the "Assaye" in the Persian Gulf, outside the three-mile limit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 12.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 16, 1903.

KOWEIT raid: I received yesterday from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah the following telegram, dated the 10th January:—

"I have reported by post, 8th January, that Vali called on me and informed me that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim had left Bussorah. His Excellency proposed that the two nephews should be settled on a small estate which they possess two miles above Bussorah, on the Shat-el-Arab, at a place called Guerdilan.

I think that, as regards Yusuf, who at present has only left voluntarily, and may return, a sentence of exile should be published against him, and that, as regards the two nephews, Guerdilan is too close, and they should at least be expelled from Bussorah vilayet."

Should I make further representations in the above sense?

An Imperial Iradé would be required before the sentence of exile advocated by Mr. Wratislaw could be issued, and the Sultan would probably reply that sentence could not be pronounced on Yusuf and Sheikh's nephews without a trial.

No. 13.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 7, 1903.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Koweit I have the honour to report that on the 31st ultimo the Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated to this Embassy through the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs a telegram from the Vali of Bussorah, dated the 25th December, stating that, "There is absolutely no instance of our natives making any attack in our waters upon any vessel whatever, native or foreign, coming from Mohammerah or the sea of [undecypherable], and all allegations or complaints to this effect are devoid of foundation."

The Vali goes on to say that if "the statements of the British Ambassador" refer to the incident of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," he had already reported all details to the Minister of the Interior, and had pointed out that the witnesses demanded from Koweit did not come, and that when brought they were not sent to the office of the "Juge d'Instruction."

The communication of this telegram was evidently intended as a reply to the verbal representations I had made on the subject, and I consequently caused Mr. Block to leave an *aide-mémoire* with the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the 3rd instant, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, briefly recapitulating the facts of the incident and my action in the matter, and stating that while I could not undertake that the expulsion of Yusuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit would be considered satisfactory reparation by His Majesty's Government, I had urged it upon the Porte as likely to smooth matters.

I also reminded the Porte of their engagement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of Koweit, and not to allow the Ottoman dominions to be made the basis of hostile expeditions against Koweit.

On the same day another telegram from the Vali of Bussorah to the Grand Vizier was communicated to this Embassy, asserting that "the English are seeking occasion for interference, and are stirring up Mubarek-es-Sabah to make a raid upon Zobeir, and are constantly trying to create questions."

To this I replied through Mr. Block that as regards the Vali's statement that His Majesty's Government had been stirring up the Sheikh of Koweit to make a raid on Zobeir, I could give it the most absolute denial, and could only qualify the Vali's assertion as entirely untrue. I therefore requested the Porte either to supply me with confirmation of this statement, or to reprimand the Vali for making false accusations against a friendly Power.

Since the above communications passed further telegrams from the Vali of Bussorah have been communicated to His Majesty's Embassy, the details of which are given in Mr. Block's Memorandum No. 6 of this day's date, inclosed herewith. The assertion now is that in connection with his feud against Ibn Rashid, who is returning to his country, the Sheikh of Koweit is planning an attack on the Shamar Arabs and intends to move on Zobeir.

I venture to call attention to the instructions sent by the Sultan to the Vali of Bussorah to "dissuade the Sheikh of Koweit from any hostile action against the Shamar or Ibn Rashid," which seem to imply that His Majesty considers Koweit to be within the Vali's sphere of influence.

In case, however, that there should be any foundation for the above statements regarding the intentions of the Sheikh of Koweit, I think it might be well to repeat the warning to him which I had the honour to suggest in my despatch No. 397 of the 9th September last.

I have reported the Vali's statement to Mr. Consul Wratislaw by telegraph, and have asked whether he knows anything of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Aide-mémoire.

(Extract.)

MY representations refer to the expedition equipped at Dora by Yussuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit. This expedition started from there on the 3rd September, and when close to Koweit in Chor Abdullah was discovered by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," who gave chase. The boats were run aground off Mohammerah and taken possession of by the crew of the "Lapwing," upon whom the raiders opened fire, killing one British seaman and wounding two.

His Majesty's Consul caused witnesses who were acquainted with the facts or had taken part in the raid, to be brought to Bussorah to be interrogated by the Ottoman authorities, in presence of the Commander of the "Lapwing" or the Consul.

The Vali refused to allow either of these officials to be present or to send a Turkish magistrate on board to take the depositions, and they were therefore taken by the Turkish Commander.

The British Embassy holds copies, they inculcate very seriously Yussuf Ibrahim and others, and the British Ambassador, in the hope of satisfying his Government, suggested some time ago, both to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier that Yussuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit should be expelled from the neighbourhood of Bussorah. The Ambassador did not undertake that this would be regarded as satisfactory reparation, but he urged it upon the Porte as likely to smooth matters. The Porte was bound by its engagement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of Koweit, and not to allow the Ottoman dominions to be made the basis of a hostile expedition against the Sheikh of Koweit, whom the Imperial Government had promised not to attack or molest.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(No. 6.)

THE Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was instructed by the Foreign Minister to communicate verbally to me the contents of a despatch from the Grand Vizier dated the 21st December (3rd January). His Highness states that the Vali of Bussorah informs the Porte by telegraph that it is not true that Ibn Rashid is contemplating an attack on Koweit. Ibn Rashid is at Safi, and is on his way to the desert. But unfortunately the Sheikh of Koweit has hostile intentions against the Shamar Arabs, who are affiliated to Ibn Rashid, and he has collected large numbers of men at El Djahré, intending to move on Zobeir, and this action on the part of the Sheikh of Koweit embitters still more the feud existing between him and Ibn Rashid, and excites the anger of the latter. The Grand Vizier goes on to say that the Sultan having learned of these matters has given the most categorical instructions to the Vali of Bussorah to use every effort to prevent a collision between the two Sheikhs, to insist on Ibn Rashid going home, and to dissuade the Sheikh of Koweit from any hostile action against the Shamar or Ibn Rashid. The Sultan further enjoins on the Porte to take every possible measure to prevent any conflict in those regions which might give an excuse to England to establish a Protectorate over Koweit. (It was evidently not intended that I should see this paragraph), and the Minister of the Interior and the Vali of Bussorah had been instructed to see that the *status quo* was observed as regards Koweit.

In another letter from the Grand Vizier, which was communicated to me verbally, his Highness says that the Vali reports that Ibn Rashid is at Kedd [?] four days from Zobeir, on his way home, that four British men-of-war are in Koweit waters, and that in accordance with the Porte's instructions he is taking every measure to prevent an attack on Koweit, and has sent a special messenger to Ibn Rashid to persuade him to continue his journey homewards.

This telegram from the Vali is dated the 17th December (31st December), and is subsequent to the one mentioned above.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

January 7, 1903.

No. 14.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 20, 1903.

KOWEIT. Reference to Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 13 of 7th January.

Mr. Wratislaw reports to-day by telegraph that the Amir is three days from Koweit at Jafer.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 20, 1903.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 10 of 16th January.

I request that you will represent to the Porte that His Majesty's Government do not consider that the voluntary departure of Yusuf Ali from Bussorah, and the removal of the Sheikh's two nephews to a spot which is only 2 miles distant from there, constitute any satisfaction for the acts complained of, which have included an attack on a British man-of-war's boats, resulting in loss of life. Unless adequate punishment is inflicted on Yusuf Ali and the Sheikh's nephews, who are undoubtedly implicated, His Majesty's Government will be compelled to press for the Vali's removal, and other reparation besides.

No. 16.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* reporting communications which have passed between his Excellency and the Turkish Government in regard to the attempted raid on Koweit, which was prevented by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and the proceedings and attitude of the Amir of Nejd and Sheikh Mubarek.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that, as proposed by Sir N. O'Connor, the warning given to Sheikh Mubarek through the Resident at Bushire that he should abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Turkish Government or with the Amir of Nejd should be repeated.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 21, 1903.

I HAVE received and communicated to the Secretary of State for India Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 13 of the 7th instant, reporting communications which had passed between him and the Turkish Government in regard to Koweit.

I have suggested to Lord G. Hamilton that, as proposed by his Excellency, the warning conveyed to Sheikh Mubarek through the Resident at Bushire, that he should abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Turkish Government or with the Amir of Nejd, should be repeated.

Sir N. O'Connor's proceedings as reported in his despatch have my approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, January 24, 1903.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that my Russian colleague, M. Adamow, has been absent for about three weeks from Bussorah, and has, I understand, accompanied the Russian warship "Askold" in her tour round the Persian Gulf.

M. Adamow, who has hitherto served only in Persia, is an excellent Persian scholar, and may have been instructed to accompany the "Askold" as interpreter without being intrusted with any particular political mission in Persian ports, which are in the district of his colleague at Bushire. The "Askold," however, visited Koweit, and doubtless Colonel Kemball will hear from the Sheikh a more or less authentic account of what occurred there.

M. Adamow has not yet returned to Bussorah, but I understand that he is expected shortly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

• No. 13.

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No. 19.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 20, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, on the subject of the measures taken to punish those implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that they concur in his proposal to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Connor to the Grand Vizier, as reported in his Excellency's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th January, and his suggestion that the question of demanding the recall of the Vali of Bussorah should be deferred for the present.

2. I am at the same time to inquire whether it is proposed to demand compensation for the losses inflicted on the "Lapwing's" crew during the engagement of that vessel with the enemy's dhows.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

No. 20.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 16, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 13 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I yesterday received two telegrams from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah in reply to the inquiry reported in the last paragraph of the above-mentioned despatch.

Mr. Wratislaw says that El Djahre, the place at which the Sheikh of Koweit is stated by the Porte to have collected a force for a raid on Zobeir, is the Sheikh's outpost, a few miles from Koweit, which he always occupies in force when threatened from the land side.

The Vali of Bussorah told Mr. Wratislaw in conversation on the 7th instant that the Sheikh had collected 2,000 men there, but said nothing of supposed aggressive intentions, of which Mr. Wratislaw himself also had no information.

On communicating by telegraph with the Resident at Bushire, Mr. Wratislaw was informed that the Commander of a British vessel had been at Koweit on the 3rd January and had seen the Sheikh, who had returned home, as the Emir Ibn Rashid had left the neighbourhood.

Mr. Wratislaw admits, however, that on the 5th January about fifty Koweit Arabs raided Zobeir in revenge for the Amir's raid, reported in his telegram of the 2nd January, repeated to your Lordship in Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 1 of the 4th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WHITEHEAD.

No. 21.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 8th January, relative to Koweit Affairs.

India Office, January 27, 1903.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to India Office.**Bushire, December 11, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to your telegram, dated the 17th October last, in which I was directed to communicate to Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit the message from the Government of India regarding his request for guns.

As I considered it advisable that the message should be conveyed verbally to the Sheikh, and as I was prevented by press of work and engagements elsewhere from proceeding to Koweit, I directed my First Assistant to proceed to Koweit to convey the message to Sheikh Mubarek.

Captain Hunt has now returned to Bushire, and has reported that he conveyed the message as directed. The Sheikh appeared to be disappointed that he could not have the guns, but he said that he would faithfully observe his engagement with the British Government. He complained bitterly about the Vali of Bussorah and Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and he said that the former was instigating the latter to do him as much injury as he could in every way, and that as recently as ten days ago Sheikh Yusuf had organized a raid from Zobeir upon tribes subordinate to Koweit. He professed his disappointment that no action had been taken to bring Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim to account for his misdeeds, and he said that the British Government had a sufficient cause of action in the matter on account of the "Lapwing" incident. He asked why we did not bring pressure to bear on Sheikh Yusuf's brother in Bombay, who was financing Sheikh Yusuf, and thus enabling him to continue his misdeeds. He also alluded to his properties in Turkish territory, and complained that we did not bring pressure upon the Porte to order the Vali to cease from giving him trouble with regard to these properties.

Captain Hunt informed the Sheikh, in accordance with my directions, that, so far as Sheikh Yusuf was concerned, both the Resident at Bushire and His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah had reported his hostile attitude towards the Sheikh of Koweit to the British Government, and that it was hoped that means would be found to prevent him from doing further mischief; that, as regards the Sheikh's properties near Fao, it was not easy for His Majesty's Government to interfere, but that the Sheikh might be sure that what was possible on his behalf would be done, while, as regards Koweit itself, the Sheikh had every reason to be satisfied with the protection which had been afforded to him by the British Government, and that the intention of the Government to continue this protection was evident from the message which was now conveyed to him. The Sheikh acknowledged that the British Government had done much for him, but it was evident that he was not entirely satisfied, and considered that more might have been done for him.

I directed Captain Hunt to ask the Sheikh if the report* alluded to in my letter, dated the 21st September last, had reached him. The Sheikh denied it, but I am not inclined to credit his denial. Captain Hunt told him that the report was, of course, absurd, and that no attention need be paid to rumours of this kind.

The Russian cruiser "Askold," which has been here for the last few days, intends, I hear, to proceed to Koweit shortly, taking the Russian Consul from Bussorah, who is now in Bushire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

January 2, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 1st January, Koweit.

I have asked gunboat at Bussorah visit Koweit and bring news. I think that probably Amir's appearance, if true, is for the purpose of soliciting assistance of Turks, and I do not think that Koweit is in any danger. I have not thought necessary at present to ask for more ships of war to be sent: "Assaye" at Bussorah, "Redbreast," Muscat.

* The report was to the effect that the Sheikh had been informed that the Turkish Government had offered the British Government some territory adjoining Egypt on the understanding that the British Government would withdraw their protection over Koweit. The information was said to have been conveyed at the instance of the Russian Consulate at Bushire.

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No. 22.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, January 28, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, January 27, 1903.

THE Turkish Government have been informed by the Vali that the Sheikh of Koweit has collected a large force at El Djahre with intention of advancing on Zobeir. A warning in the sense of my telegram of the 22nd September should again be addressed to Mubarak.

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 30.)

Sir,

India Office, January 29, 1903.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 15th and 16th January, transmitting a copy of Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 4 of the 6th January and Mr. Whitehead's telegram No. 10 of the 16th idem on the subject of the persons implicated in the recent raid on Koweit.

His Lordship concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Connor to the Grand Vizier in the above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GOLEY.

No. 24.

Consul Wratishaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 31.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, January 3, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 69 of the 22nd December, I have the honour to report that during the visit of the Russian warship "Askold" to Koweit, Jaber, the son of Sheikh Mubarek, went on board instead of his father, who declined to accept the Captain's invitation. He was treated with due civility, and received as presents a gun and a revolver. Negotiations of some sort seem to have taken place between the parties, but what they were I have been unable to ascertain. It is rather a suspicious circumstance that when the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Assaye" went to Koweit, after the "Askold," of whose visit he was ignorant, neither the Sheikh nor his son mentioned to him that a Russian ship had been there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

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No. 25.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 27, 1903.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 15 of the 20th instant, I instructed Mr. Block to present a *pro-memorandum* to the Minister for Foreign Affairs embodying its substance, and asking that adequate punishment should be inflicted on Yusuf Ibrahim and the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for the part they took in the recent piratical expedition.

I saw Tewfik Pasha this morning and asked him what reply I might send to your Lordship in regard to this matter. His Excellency answered that the substance of Mr. Block's *pro-memorandum* had been sent to the Vali of Bussorah for his report, and that a reply would be sent to this Embassy when it was received.

I pointed out to his Excellency that what His Majesty's Government required was that adequate punishment should be inflicted on these persons, who were implicated in an attack on the boats of one of His Majesty's ships which had resulted in loss of life, and that their mere removal from the neighbourhood of Bussorah, without even a sentence of banishment, could not be considered as such.

His Excellency replied that this would be borne in mind, and a reply would be given at least in regard to the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews, but that as regards Yusuf Ibrahim nothing could be done, as he had evaded punishment by flight.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WHITEHEAD.

No. 26.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 15th January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 3, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 26.

*Lieutenant-Colonel C. Kemball to Government of India.**Bushire, December 22, 1902.*

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 11th December, 1902, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Sir N. R. O'Connor by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah regarding Koweit affairs.

Although I feel sure that Sheikh Mubarak will, if questioned, deny any complicity in the raid referred to, it is very probable that the Bedouins who committed the raid owe some sort of allegiance to the Sheikh of Koweit.

The Government of India are aware that Sheikh Mubarak has been advised on more than one occasion not to encourage any action on the part of his tribesmen, which may involve him in difficulties with the Turks, but the difficulties of his position must also be remembered. Constant raids have been perpetrated on his tribesmen in the region of Zubeir and Sefwan, presumably with the tacit connivance of the Turkish authorities. At any rate Mubarak can expect no redress from the Turks, and he has been informed that it is impossible for us to protect him from raids in that quarter.

As an Arab Sheikh, it is of course of vital importance to him to retain his hold on

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the Bedouin tribes which consider themselves subordinate to him, and under the circumstances, it is, I think, impossible for him, even if he had the power to control his tribesmen, to prevent them from carrying out reprisals for the raids to which they have been subjected.

No. 27.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd instant, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 4, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 3, 1903.

AS desired in your telegram of the 27th ultimo, instructions were sent to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to convey to the Sheikh of Koweit necessary warning if he appeared to be contemplating attack, and had gone to Jehara with other object than to protect his own property, as stated in his recent letter to the Resident. The following is the reply of the Resident, with whose conclusion, that no further action is required at present, we concur:—

"On the 11th I was asked by the Consul at Bussorah whether I had any confirmation of the similar report sent by the Vali to Constantinople. On the 18th I visited Koweit, and was told by Mubarak that report was false, and that he had no aggressive intentions. The Amir of Nejd was then at Haffer, which Mubarak claims as his territory, and which is three days' march from Koweit. I communicated to Wratislaw the information I had obtained at Koweit. It appears to me improbable that the Sheikh had any intention of moving on Zobeyr, and I do not propose to take any further action on the Secretary of State's telegram, as I believe it had reference to the report from the Vali, which I have already mentioned."

No. 28.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 6, 1903.

I DULY received and communicated to the Secretary of State for India and to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Sir N. O'Connor's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th ultimo in regard to the demand of His Majesty's Government for the adequate punishment of the principal persons implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit.

The language which Sir N. O'Connor held to the Grand Vizier on the subject, as reported in those despatches, is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 29.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 6, 1903.

WITH reference to the final paragraph of your letter, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo relative to the attempted raid on Koweit in September, 1902, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that, after consulting His Majesty's

Ambassador at Constantinople, who is now in this country, he is of opinion that it will not be necessary or advisable to claim compensation for the injuries inflicted on the crew of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," if Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit receive the punishment demanded by His Majesty's Government.

The Lords Commissioners will, however, have seen, from Lord Lansdowne's telegram No. 15 of the 20th ultimo to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, a copy of which was communicated to you on the same day, that a demand for other reparation is contemplated if the persons concerned in the attempted raid are not adequately punished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 30.

Consul Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, January 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a letter which the Vali of Bussorah addressed to me, stating that he had been informed by the Ministry of the Interior that the British Embassy had complained of the aggression against Koweit of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the nephews of Sheikh Mubarek, of which the Vilayet Government was said to be cognizant; and that, as this complaint must be founded on information supplied by me, he would be glad to be furnished with my proofs for the information of the Ministry of the Interior.

In reply, I simply referred the Vali to the letters I had already addressed to him on the subject of the "Lapwing" incident, and he thereupon wrote me another letter (of which translation is inclosed), defending his action, and laying all responsibility on the judicial authorities.

I understand that the Vali has received a somewhat severe reprimand from the Ministry of the Interior. He called on me yesterday, and, after some general conversation, introduced the subject of Mubarek. The Sheikh had, he said, written to congratulate him at Baïram, and he himself wrote back in friendly terms. It was a great pity that Mubarek would not refrain from provoking Ibn Reschid, for he was not only putting a stop to the inland commerce of this part of Arabia, but was also endangering himself and his town. Had not Ibn Reschid been checked by the Vali's orders on his recent approach in this direction, he would have assuredly taken Koweit and driven all the inhabitants into the sea.

The Vali then turned to the question of the property dispute between Mubarek and his nephews, and here, he said, he must confess that the Sheikh's attitude had recently been quite correct. He had expressed his perfect willingness to accept and abide by the decision of the Arbitrators appointed by Imperial Iradé, while the nephews had declined to agree to this course. He (the Vali) had proposed that Khalid and Hamoud should be ordered to reside on their little property at Guerdilan (a couple of miles above Bussorah), and that a pension should be allowed for their maintenance. With these two firebrands safely interned at Guerdilan, and Yussuf-el-Ibrahim out of the country, his Excellency hoped that Mubarek would be able to rest in peace. The eldest nephew, Sabah, was a quiet, respectable man, and did not mix in the intrigues of the others.

The Vali's utterances were distinctly propitiatory in tone. He referred only indirectly to the "Lapwing" incident, and made no attempt to champion Yussuf or the nephews, whose guilt he almost admitted by implication. His mention of Sheikh Mubarek was benevolent rather than otherwise, with the exception of one somewhat disparaging sentence, in which he called him "a liar, a rascal, and an idiot." His Excellency's estimate of the easy task Ibn Reschid would have in attacking Koweit is not that generally accepted, and it is doubtful whether the Amir would have ventured an assault, even had such action not been vetoed by the Sultan. As reported in my telegram of the 2nd instant, Ibn Reschid raided a large number of camels and other animals from an outlying tribe which, I believe, owes some sort of allegiance to Koweit. At any rate, Mubarek was unable to make any offensive movement against the Amir on account of the loss of these camels, and his Bedouins retaliated two days ago by raiding the camels and mares belonging to Zobéir. The inhabitants of the latter town, who followed up the robbers, were defeated in a skirmish which ensued, several of them being wounded.

It would not, in my opinion, be safe to acquiesce in the Vali's theory that the departure of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the settlement of Khalid and Hamoud at Guerdilan, if effected, will remove all danger to Koweit. Yussuf may return, and the nephews may almost as well be at Bussorah as at Guerdilan, which is only 2 miles away.

There seems to be some doubt as to whether Yussuf joined Ibn Reschid or started on his journey to Mecca along the Euphrates; but it is sure that he has left Bussorah—presumably for Mecca—and I have little doubt that he will join Ibn Reschid before long, if not already with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratislaw.

(Translation.)

Sir,

20 Kianoun-i-Evvel, 1318 (January 2, 1903).

I HAVE been notified by the Ministry of the Interior that the Porte has been informed by the Embassy that Sheikh Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, together with the nephews of Sheikh Mubarek-es-Sabah Pasha, of Koweit, have been guilty of aggression and emprisals on Koweit, and that this went on with the knowledge of the vilayet.

As the Embassy's communication is naturally based upon your report of the matter, I beg that you will be kind enough to put me in possession of any conclusive proofs you may have to establish the assertion that the persons in question have committed acts of aggression and emprisal to which the Vilayet was privy, in order that I may submit the said proofs to the Ministry of the Interior.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Consul Wratislaw to Mustafa Nouri Pasha.

Sir,

January 3, 1903.

IN reply to your Excellency's letter of the 20th Kianoun-i-Evvel, asking for evidence of the complicity of Sheikh Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the nephews of Sheikh Mubarek in the expedition against Koweit which encountered His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," I have the honour to refer your Excellency to my previous letters of the 8th September, 30th September, 20th October, and 6th November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratislaw.

(Translation.)

Sir,

24 Kianoun-i-Evvel, 1318 (January 6, 1903).

I ADDRESSED to you a request that you would be good enough to inform me of any conclusive evidence in your possession of a nature to prove that Sheikh Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the nephews of Mubarek-es-Sabah Pasha had been parties to an attack and emprisals on Koweit, and that the Government had been privy to the same. In reply to my letter asking for proofs of the participation of Sheikh Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the nephews of Mubarek Pasha in the armed force destined against Koweit which the "Lapwing" intercepted, you referred me to the text of previously-received letters of yours, viz., of the 8th and 30th September, 20th October, and 6th November, 1902, respectively. I therefore had these brought to me from the Judicial Department, to which, in due course, they had been handed over, and reperused. In them I found nothing to indicate that the Government had been privy to the emprisals in question, only in your letter of the 6th November I find it stated that you had taken the evidence of a portion of the witnesses of the "Lapwing" incident, and were sending them to me, and that the Government had considered it its duty to see that this incident should not be brought to the light of day.

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As I have previously declared in writing and repeatedly stated in interviews, once the preliminary inquiry into the "Lapwing" incident was finished, it was handed over to the Judiciary as being a matter of their competency according to the provisions of the laws of the country, and the inquiry has been pushed and hastened so as to bring all the facts of the case to light. The fact that the question has hitherto not reached a conclusion or result is due to the legal inability of the Judiciary to consent to and carry out proposals such as you made with regard to the hearing of the witnesses brought forward by you in the presence of the Captain of the "Lapwing." For the rest, the Vilayet and Judiciary alike would have otherwise prevented any remissness or delay occurring in the pursuit of the investigations and the due accomplishment of the proceedings, and in this connection I venture to hope that you will modify your ideas and views with regard to the Government's reluctance to bring the facts to light. Nevertheless, in order to secure an expeditious result in due and legal course, I have on this occasion also made a second communication to the judicial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSTAFA NOURI,
Vali and Ferik.

No. 31.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 22nd January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 10, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, December 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward translated copy of a report received by me from the Newsagent at Koweit on the subject of the visit to Koweit of the Russian cruiser "Askold" and other matters.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Koweit Agent to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

19th Ramazan, 1320 (December 20, 1902).

ON the 12th December last, the Russian man-of-war arrived at Koweit from Bushire, half-an-hour before sunset. The next day the weather was stormy, so nobody landed from the ship. The third day, the Russian Consul of Bussorah and two officers of the ship came ashore and visited Sheikh Mubarek. The first question the Russian Consul put to Sheikh Mubarek was whether British men-of-war ever came to Koweit. The Sheikh replied: "Yes, they are in the habit of visiting Koweit." The Consul then said the Governments of England and Germany had come to an understanding, and agreed to bring a railway to Kadhima in his (the Sheikh's territory), and asked if he was aware of that or not. The Sheikh replied he was not aware of it, nor had he heard about it. After some complimentary conversation, the Consul asked Sheikh Mubarek to send Sheikh Jaber (his son) with him to see the man-of-war. Sheikh Jaber was accordingly sent with some men, and at the time of leaving the ship he was given a double-barrel gun and a five-chambered revolver. The man-of-war left Koweit on the 14th December last.

On the 8th December last, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, Mubarek Azebi, and Khaled-bin-Aoon, who is Sheikh of Zubeir, collected 200 men and attacked Sheikh Mubarek's tribesmen residing in the vicinity of Jehara. The tribesmen repelled them, and in

doing so wounded Mubarek Azebi in the stomach, who fell in his blood. His men took him away, and they were defeated. Sheikh Mubarek's men pursued them to near Zubeir, and captured the sheep and camels which belonged to Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and Mubarek Azebi. At present the Sheikh has collected all his men towards his sides, and has ordered them not to leave his boundaries without his permission. His subjects and tribesmen are grateful to him.

Rain has fallen in the neighbourhood of Koweit, and the place looks green.

The Vali of Bussorah has made Sheikh Mubarek angry. Sheikh Jaber, Sheikh Mubarek's brother, at the time he left Fao, after finishing his work connected with the date crops, kept Yakub-bin-Ibrahim-bin-Khalifah as his agent in his house, which contained a lot of furniture worth 30,000 rupees. Yakub commands Sheikh Mubarek's confidence, and is his Wakil. The Vali had ordered the Mudir of Fao to send Yakub to Bussorah, as he was said to be a conscript. The Mudir sent some soldiers and arrested Yakub for the purpose of sending him to Bussorah. Yakub told the Mudir: "I am not a conscript; the Yakub who is a conscript is Yakub-bin-Hazza. My name is Yakub-bin-Ibrahim-bin-Khalifah, and am now here in Fao for the last twenty-five years. You come to my house to take coffee. The friend you want is Yakub-bin-Hazza." The Mudir replied that he had received orders to send him (Yakub) to Bussorah. Yakub was forcibly taken to Bussorah, and on his reaching Bussorah, the Vali consigned him to a cell. The Sheikh's house has been left without a guardian. Sheikh Mubarek is extremely angry with the Vali on this account.

As regards Ibn Raschid, he has, in these days, encamped between Haiyel and Kasum, ten days' journey from Ibn Saood's territory. He has not made any movements till now. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood is in his country. All the inhabitants and tribes of Nejd are under his orders, and are happy and grateful to him.

They are not afraid of Ibn Raschid.

P.S.—Mubarek Azebi is not likely to survive the bullet-wound which he has received in his stomach. He was the chief supporter of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and was harassing Sheikh Mubarek's tribesmen. He has reached his punishment. He is a son of Sheikh Mubarek's uncle.

With regard to the Russian Consul, he was showing great friendly feelings to Sheikh Mubarek and expressed readiness to do any work he may have for them (the Russians).

Inclosure 3 in No. 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, December 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward translated copy of a report received by me from the Newsagent at Koweit. I can hardly believe that the Amir of Nejd has himself appeared in the neighbourhood of Koweit, as he is believed to be in the vicinity of Riadh.

I have not yet received any confirmation from Bussorah of the report that orders had been issued for the expulsion of Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Inclosure 4 in No. 31.

Koweit Agent to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

21st Ramazan, 1320 (December 22, 1902).

I BEG to inform you that on the 22nd December last, Abdul Aziz Ibn Raschid came unawares in the neighbourhood of Koweit, two hours' distant from Jehara, and made a night attack on Sheikh Mubarek's Arabs. There were seventy houses which he looted. When the other Arabs heard of this, they went to the assistance of their friends and drove him away. They then informed Sheikh Mubarak, who sent soldiers and sowars to protect them. Ibn Raschid, after plundering the Arabs, went in a northerly direction, two days' distant from Jehara. Sheikh Mubarek has sent sowars to four sides for the protection of his Arabs. Besides these, he has dispatched to his frontiers

100 sowars with a view to finding out Ibn Raschid's whereabouts and strength, and preventing him from making another attack by surprise.

On the 22nd Ramazan [sic] news reached Sheikh Mubarek from Bussorah that the Sublime Porte had ordered the Vali of Bussorah that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim should not stay in Bussorah or in the neighbourhood, but should go to Damascus or Jeddah to live; that all the sons of Sheikh Muhammad Sabah (Mubarek's murdered brother) should go to Bagdad to live. This news has been given to Sheikh Mubarek by his friend in Bussorah. When he heard it he became greatly pleased, and said this order must have been issued at the instance of the British Government, and prayed that God may not remove their shadow from him.

No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 12.)

Sir,

India Office, February 11, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo regarding the proceedings and attitude of the Sheikh of Koweit and the Amir of Nejd, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.

Lord George Hamilton will be glad to be informed whether Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Government of India, that no action should be taken for the present on the instructions sent to the Viceroy on the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, January 27, 1903.

THE Turkish Government have been informed by the Vali that the Sheikh of Koweit has collected a large force at El Djahre with intention of advancing on Zobeyr. A warning in the sense of my telegram of the 22nd September should again be addressed to Mubarek.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 3, 1903.

AS desired in your telegram of the 27th January, instructions were sent to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to convey to the Sheikh of Koweit necessary warning if he appeared to be contemplating attack, and had gone to Jehara with other object than to protect his own property, as stated in his recent letter to the Resident. The following is the reply of the Resident, with whose conclusion, that no further action is required at present, we concur: "On the 11th I was asked by the Consul at Bussorah whether I had any confirmation of the similar report sent by the Vali to Constantinople. On the 18th I visited Koweit, and was told by Mubarak that report was false, and that he had no aggressive intentions. The Amir of Nejd was then at Haffer, which Mubarek claims as his territory, and which is three days' march from Koweit. I communicated to Wratislaw the information I had obtained at Koweit. It appears to me improbable that the Sheikh had any intention of moving on Zobeyr, and I do not propose to take any further action on the Secretary of State's telegram, as I believe it had reference to the report from the Vali, which I have already mentioned.

No. 33.

Mr. Whitehead

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 12, 1903.

MR. CONSUL WRATISLAW telegraphs that the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit, being in want of money since Yusuf went away, have proposed to make an arrangement with the Sheikh in regard to their property. £T. 2,000 to be allowed them annually by the Sheikh, less the income from the estates at Ajerawieh and Guedilan, on which they wish to settle. Vali is in correspondence with the Sheikh on the subject. Mr. Wratislaw thinks that an arrangement may be arrived at on the proposed basis. Am I to insist on the punishment of the Sheikh's nephews, or should I support this arrangement?

No. 34.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, the accompanying copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* with regard to a proposal which has been made by the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for an arrangement with their uncle as to the allowance which they receive from him.

Sir N. O'Connor, to whom this telegram has been communicated, sees no objection to the proposal, provided that it is approved of by the Sheikh, and that it is settled through His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, and not through the Vali.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne, that the suggested arrangement is a good one, but before sending instructions to Mr. Whitehead, he would wish to be favoured with the views of the Secretary of State for India on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 35.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1903.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding copies of telegraphic correspondence with the Government of India, relative to a proposal to warn the Sheikh of Koweit against encouraging any action likely to bring him into difficulties with Nejd or with the Turkish authorities.

In view of the opinion of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf that the Sheikh has no aggressive intentions, Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Government of India to take no action for the present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegraphic correspondence relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 26, 1903.

* No. 33.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 20, 1903.

ON the 11th February Consul at Bussorah reported a proposal by Mubarak's nephews, who since Yusuf's departure have been in financial difficulties, to arrange a settlement with Mubarak concerning the property. They wish to occupy the estates at Guedilan and Ajerawieh, the income from which is £T.2,000 a-year more than their allowance from Mubarak. Provided that the Sheikh accepts this proposal and the settlement is arranged through Consul at Bussorah, have you any objection?

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 24, 1903.

PLEASE reply as soon as possible to my telegram of the 20th, relating to Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 26, 1903.

I WILL address you further in reply to your telegram of the 24th on receipt of a report which Colonel Kemball has been asked to furnish after ascertaining the views of the Sheikh of Koweit.

No. 37.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 26, 1903.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter dated the 4th instant, from Lieutenant and Commander R. M. Lambert, of His Majesty's ship "Assaye," on the subject of piracy in the Shat-el-Arab.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Lieutenant-Commander Lambert to Rear-Admiral Sir C. Drury.

Sir,

"Assaye," at Bombay, February 4, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to submit that during the recent three months His Majesty's ship under my command was serving in the Persian Gulf, I was enabled to gather the following information by conversation with Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, my interpreter, my shikarri, and also the captain of the dhow of the "Fath-el-Kair," which was pirated on the 26th November, 1902, and on another occasion from the captain of a dhow to whom I was able to render some assistance in repairing the iron yoke of his rudder, without which he was unable to proceed to sea from the river. I am aware that the character of Arabs is to tell any story best suited to the occasion, and must be received with caution, but these men had nothing to gain by not speaking the truth, and by showing them small courtesies they became more friendly and talkative. I therefore forward to you a summary of their conversation, which I trust may be of interest. Sheikh Mubarek assured me that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim was paying the Vali of Bussorah to keep his mouth shut and hush up the

affair of the "Lapwing's" capture of pirates. The Vali is undoubtedly open to bribery, and, consequently, an unreliable Governor, and though he takes care to pay himself before forwarding the revenue to his Government, his pay, at the best, is small for his position. The whole country is a mass of spying and bribery, and the man with the longest purse remains at the head of affairs. To gain information on any matters, paid spies are employed; they in turn have other spies, and the Vali, in consequence, is not able to pay them all. Yusuf, on the other hand, is a wealthy man and respected in consequence, and does what he likes, and though he has now gone away on account of the "Lapwing" affair, he still exercises considerable control.

I understand that he is in considerable fear of having his Bombay property confiscated and being made an outlaw, and I would submit that he, his family, and all near relations be removed from the country altogether, as a deterrent effect on the remainder of the population thereabouts.

Yusuf employs two well-known pirates for any little purposes he may want, named Hassan-bin-Jubair and Alawi-bin-Jubair, who are sons of an influential Sheikh in Persian territory, and having about 2,000 men under him, so that, though outlaws, they are free practically from being caught. They live by piracy, either by land or by sea, and have with them a youth named Mukhayit or Mukhaiti, who at one time was one of Darya Begi's dancing boys. Darya Begi was not long ago the Admiral on board the "Persepolis" Persian gun-boat.

Selman-bin-Matruk, Abdul Hasein-bin-Matruk, Aliwi-bin-Matruk, all residing in the Samejih, at a place Asmawiyeh, were some of the men, together with the three mentioned above, who took part in the attack on the dhow on the 26th November, 1902, and their names were given me by the Sheikh of Mohammerah.

The Sheikh of Mohammerah and the Vali of Bussorah are, in reality, bitter enemies, and each blames the other, and the consequence is that no satisfactory arrangement is ever to be arrived at. The Sheikh of Mohammerah is an extremely influential man, his favourite wife being a Persian Princess, so that he has little to fear, and plays his game accordingly.

The dhow he arms and puts on the river is a useless farce, and I found out from one of her crew that his pay was 10 rupees a-month, and that he was married, had three children, horse, cattle, and a small piece of land, and that, in addition to these, his mother-in-law lived with him.

To keep up this establishment on this amount is impossible even in Persia, and I was told, in a purely voluntary way, that the men in the dhow did commit piracies, and the fact was well known on the river. Unfortunately, I could not receive proof of this statement, but as the Arab loves fighting for fighting's sake, and the men in the dhow are well armed, it certainly lends colour to the idea, and they are able to go undetected, and if even they were "given away" by any one and caught redhanded, they could, and would, wreak a terrible vengeance: the result being the villagers are terrorized. My information was obtained on a promise not to disclose the man's name, but I am not aware of the man's real name, though he thinks I know it.

The whole idea of the Persians and Turks may be summed up in the two words "Politique Zuda," which is a Persian expression meaning, literally, to "get the better of you"—the consequence of which may be imagined.

Sheikh Mubarek is at present very friendly with the British, but he has a grievance which might be put right easily, and add much to our prestige there. It is with regard to his property confiscated by Yusuf at or near Fao. The Political Resident at Bushire is aware of the fact, and I am sure if it was restored that we should gain much by helping him, for, though he is friendly enough apparently, it would take little to make him distrust us. His argument is that we have given him a protection, and should help him in everything, and cannot reconcile our telling him we will as far as Koweit is immediately concerned, and not helping at Fao. It is his nature, I suppose, and will be hard to alter.

I have the honour to submit that piracy on the river would be considerably abated if either—

(a.) The dhows under British colours were made to deposit the money they carry for buying dates with the British Consuls at port of departure, receipts given, and letters of advice forwarded by mail steamer to Bussorah, and the money paid over there.

(I fancy there would be a little difficulty at first, as the native is suspicious, but it would soon be overcome.)

(b.) To have three fast launches, such as the one at present owned by Messrs. Lynch Brothers, at Bussorah. They cost about 3,000*l.* each, and are built by White, of Cowes. They could accommodate six men, and could do a fortnight on the bar, and at Fao; a fortnight between Fao and Mohammerah, and a fortnight at Bussorah, where small repairs

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can be effected; the men to be borne supernumeraries in Senior Naval Officer's ship. The launch is able to steam 18 knots and raise steam in half-an-hour or less.

(c.) To insist on the Turkish and Persian Governments paying half the damage each to any dhows pirated, which would be, I fancy, the easiest way out of the difficulty.

No number of gun-boats on the river will suppress piracy, as they are so easily watched, and news travels at an extraordinary rate.

It was reported by messenger to the Consul at Bussorah within two days that I had destroyed the dhows off Koweit. The Turkish gun-boats on the river—the "Kalid-el-Bahr" and "Zohaf"—are absolutely useless, and during the month I was on the river they never moved from their anchorages off Dawasir Island and Bussorah respectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. M. LAMBERT.

No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th March, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 16, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 14, 1903.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Colonel Kemball, dated the 11th March:—

"His Majesty's ship 'Sphinx,' which arrived from Koweit yesterday, reports having met there the Russian and French cruisers, which were there from 4th to 8th instant. Abdul Aziz-bin-Feysul, who had just arrived at Koweit, was visited by the Russian Consul at Bushire, who had come on board the Russian cruiser, and, as he subsequently informed the Commander of the 'Sphinx,' in an interview, was promised by the Russian Consul assistance in the shape of rifles and money. Report follows by post. Amir of Nejd is said to be at present about eight days' march from Koweit in El Kasim, and fighting is expected to take place before long."

No. 39.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 26th ultimo, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 18, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, February 2, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 11th ultimo, I received a telegram from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to the effect that the Ambassador at

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No. 37*.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 12.)

Sir,

India Office, March 11, 1903.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th February, on the subject of a proposal which has been made by the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for an arrangement with their uncle.

In reply, I am to say that, should an arrangement satisfactory to both parties be arrived at, the object aimed at by His Majesty's Government, when they insisted upon the expulsion of Mubarek's nephews from the neighbourhood of Bussorah, will be attained.

His Lordship therefore desires me to request that you will inform Lord Lansdowne that, subject to the conditions suggested by Sir N. O'Connor, he sees no objection to instructions being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposed arrangement, and in the meantime to suspend the question of the banishment of the Sheikh's nephews.

I am also to inclose copies of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37*.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 26, 1903.

I WILL address you further in reply to your telegram of 24th on receipt of a report which Colonel Kemball has been asked to furnish after ascertaining the views of the Sheikh of Koweit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37*.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 5, 1903.

MY telegram of 26th February.

Reply of Sheikh of Koweit is that months ago he informed the Vali that he accepted the Irade of the Sultan, by which disinterested persons appointed at Bussorah were, after inquiry, to decide on his nephews' claims.

Colonel Kemball thinks that Mubarek is anxious to settle matter, but is not prepared to accede entirely to the proposal of his nephews, and that he wishes matter referred to arbitration under the supervision of Consul at Bussorah and the Vali.

Perhaps it can be arranged at Constantinople that Wratislaw should attend the proceedings, in view of the peculiar status of Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37*.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 11, 1903.

MY telegram of the 5th March.

Colonel Kemball reports that His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah thinks that unofficial recognition of his intervention in the settlement in matter of Sheikh of Koweit might be easily obtained by him from the present Vali, who appears to have first broached the subject to him. Before mentioning the subject to the Vali, Wratislaw awaits orders from Constantinople.

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No. 37*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 13, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 41 of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of Koweit, I repeat to your Excellency two telegrams from the Viceroy of India:

You may support the arrangement, and, in the meantime, suspend the question of the banishment of the Sheikh's nephews, subject to the conditions that it is approved by the Sheikh, and settled through the medium of His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Constantinople had telegraphed to him that the Porte had received a telegram from the Wali of Bussorah that Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit had collected a large force at Jehara, with the intention of moving on Zobeir and attacking the Amir of Nejd. Mr. Wratislaw asked me if I had any information on the subject.

On the 17th ultimo I left Bushire in the "Lawrence" and proceeded to Koweit. On the 18th I visited Sheikh Mubarak, who was in Koweit. He informed me that there was no truth in the report, and that he did not contemplate offensive action against the Amir of Nejd. He said that he intended to abide by the instructions given to him by His Majesty's Government that he should not provoke the Amir of Nejd or the Turkish Government. His eldest son, Jaber, was, he informed me, at Jehara on a hunting expedition. While I was at Koweit I did not learn that Mubarak was preparing any hostile expedition, and I do not think that there is any foundation for the report submitted to Constantinople by the Wali.

At my interview with Sheikh Mubarak I took the opportunity of discussing fully the situation with him. I said that, from his letters to me, it appeared that he considered that he had a grievance against His Majesty's Government. It seemed to me, however, that he had no real cause for this. His Majesty's Government had supported him firmly throughout, and it was solely owing to this support that he had retained his independent position at Koweit. With regard to his complaints against the Amir of Nejd and the Turks for having encouraged raids on his tribes, he must surely understand that it was not possible for His Majesty's Government to give him active support; but I felt sure that my Government had not neglected to take such measures as were possible in the way of representations to the Turkish Government on his behalf.

Sheikh Mubarak acknowledged that he had real cause for gratitude to His Majesty's Government for the support which had been given to him, but he said that the Amir of Nejd was now at a place called Hafer, which was some three days' journey from Koweit and within Koweit territory, and that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, was with the Amir. He said that, owing to his promise to the British Government, he was debarred from attacking the Amir, who was doing all he could to injure him by raids and by detaching his tribes from their allegiance to Koweit.

I told the Sheikh that the advice which had been given to him not to assume an aggressive attitude against the Amir of Nejd appeared to me to be sound; that, as Mubarak had himself informed me, the fortune of war appeared to be going against the Amir, whose power appeared to be on the decrease; and that, if Mubarak now kept quiet, time would appear to be on his side, whereas, if he now pursued an aggressive policy, he might get into difficulties from which it would be difficult for His Majesty's Government to extricate him. I told him at the same time that there could be no objection to his taking the requisite measures for protecting his own territories, but I advised him not to go further than this.

The Sheikh appeared to acknowledge the justice of my remarks, and again said that he had no intention of assuming the offensive against the Amir. He then said that his chief causes for dissatisfaction were that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, had been allowed to work against him with impunity and had not been brought to account, and that the Wali of Bussorah treated him with the grossest injustice in the matter of his date gardens near Fao. With regard to the latter matter, he said that all he wanted was common justice, as might be enjoyed by other owners of property in Turkey; whereas all the Wali's actions with regard to his properties were actuated by spite, and on this account he had suffered a loss of some 3,000 Turkish liras. He asked me if I could not arrange that the British Consul at Bussorah should befriend him in the event of his having to make any representations to the Wali with regard to his properties.

I tried to explain to the Sheikh the difficulty in the way of our interference with regard to property situated within Turkish territory, but I said that I would inform our Consul at Bussorah of what he said. My interview with the Sheikh was long and very friendly. He more than once repeated his protestations of loyalty to the British Government, and his intention to abide by the advice which has been given to him. He spoke to me about the visit of the Russian cruiser "Askold" to Koweit, and told me that, at the interview which he had with the Russian Consul from Bussorah, who was on board, only civilities were exchanged. Whether this was the case I cannot say, but I have no reason to think that the Sheikh has any desire or intention of not continuing to adhere loyally to his agreement with His Majesty's Government.

After leaving Koweit I proceeded to Bussorah, where I saw His Majesty's Consul, to whom I communicated what I had heard at Koweit.

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The place Hafer, where the Amir was then said to be, though it is claimed by Sheikh Mubarak to be within Koweit limits, is probably "no man's land," though Sheikh Mubarak's claim to it may be as good as any one else's. The Amir of Nejd had only some 300 troops with him, and the Sheikh did not appear to be in any way anxious regarding the safety of Koweit.

No. 40.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd March, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 23, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 22, 1903.

KOWEIT: My telegram of the 11th March.

I have received following telegram from Wratislaw with reference to a telegram from me of the 14th instant:—

"The Vali's explanation of the situation is that Hamoud and Khalid, nephews of Mubarak, have joined the Amir of Nejd, and will permanently reside at Hayel. Should they return to Bussorah they will be arrested, and tried for the attempt on Koweit.

"Two other nephews, Sabah and Saoud, have been empowered by them to negotiate a settlement with Mubarak.

"Vali proposes arbitration, with himself as umpire, each side appointing an Arbitrator. As Arbitrator for the Amir he suggests Mahmoud Pasha, a wealthy landowner, who, in my opinion, is as likely to be as impartial as any Turkish subject here. Vali has written to Mubarak, indicating the lines of arbitration, and asking him to draft the deed of reference.

"As Vali seems to be quite ready to discuss matters with me, and really anxious to effect a settlement, I have said nothing about claiming the right of friendly intervention."

No. 41.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord.

Constantinople, March 24, 1903.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 52 of the 13th instant, as to the settlement of the dispute between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews concerning certain estates, I learn from Mr. Consul Wratislaw that the present position of the arbitration negotiations is as follows: The Vali of Bussorah had written to the Sheikh proposing that each side should nominate an arbitrator and that he himself should nominate an umpire—suggesting a certain Mahmud Pasha, whom Mr. Wratislaw considers as likely to be as impartial as any Turkish subject there. The Vali has now received a letter from the Sheikh proposing four arbitrators from each side. His Excellency agrees to three, as one of the Sheikh's nominees is not an acceptable person. The Vali is voluntarily keeping Mr. Wratislaw informed of the progress of the negotiations, and the latter has not yet found it necessary to make any formal claim of the right of friendly intervention. I have instructed Mr. Wratislaw that I see no objection to the proposed mode of settlement, provided that the Sheikh agrees and that the matter is arranged under the Consul's supervision. I added that steps should be taken to insure that the two nephews, Khalid and Hamud, implicated with Yusuf in the raid, who have

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joined the Amir of Nejd and will reside permanently at Hayel, should not be able to reopen the question, and the Vali has promised Mr. Wratislaw that he will see that these absent nephews are bound equally with the nephews Sabah and Saoud to accept the award.

I have learnt from the Porte that the Amir of Nejd is reported to be in El-Kassim some eight days from Koweit, and reports from Jeddah point to the possibility of an attack on Riadh being contemplated. Mr. Wratislaw telegraphs, however, that Abdul-Aziz-bin-Saoud had passed the feast of Baïram at Koweit, which would seem to indicate that Riadh was not considered in danger, and that according to the Vali the Amir is endeavouring to arrange an alliance with Sadun and is chastising the outlying tribes, having little hope left of taking Riadh.

I think that, notwithstanding the Vali's assurances, the presence of Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephews in the Amir's camp, and the conflicting reports received respecting the latter's movements, afford us sufficient cause for regarding the local situation at Koweit with a certain amount of anxiety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 42.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 28.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 22, 1903.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter, dated the 14th ultimo, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," and copy of an extract from a letter of the 27th ultimo from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Perseus,"* reporting the visit of the Russian cruiser "Boyarin," and the French cruiser "Infernet" to Koweit and Muscat.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. J. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Commander Kemp to Rear-Admiral Sir C. Drury.

Sir,

"Sphinx," at Bushire, March 14, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that, during the visit of the "Infernet" and "Boyarin" to Koweit, Abdul Aziz-bin-Sood was in Koweit, and was twice visited by the Russian Consul of Bushire and by the Captain of the "Boyarin."

Abdul Aziz-bin-Sood, about a year ago, captured Riadh from the Amir of Nejd, Ibn Raschid, and has since been continually at war with him. Mahomet, the brother of Abdul Aziz, was also in Koweit, and visited the "Infernet" on the 7th March, where he was fêted, and saluted with five guns on leaving.

I visited Abdul Aziz on the afternoon of the 8th March, in company with Sheikh Mubarak, and was told that the Russian Consul had made the former offer of money and rifles to assist him against the Amir of Nejd.

I pointed out to Abdul Aziz that it was undesirable that foreign European countries should interfere in the affairs of Nejd, and suggested that he should refuse any offers made to him on behalf of the Russian Government, and that, as Great Britain was the predominant Power in the Persian Gulf, and intended to remain so, it would not, in the end, pay him to do anything of which she disapproved.

Abdul Aziz promised to report what I said to his father, Abdul Rahman-bin-Sood, but pointed out the Amir of Nejd received money and support from the Turkish Government, and that it was necessary for him to have money to retain the support of the Arab tribes in his efforts against the Amir.

I think it is likely that Abdul Aziz will take anything from the Russians he can get, and that Mubarak will back him up in doing so, and it is possible that some definite arrangement was entered into on this occasion.

* Not printed.

I could not ascertain whether Abdul Aziz came to Koweit on purpose to meet the foreign ships. Mubarak denies that he did, and said that he came only to escort some of his family back to Riadh.

I had visited Mubarak on the afternoon previous, and he told me nothing of the presence of Abdul Aziz in Koweit, or of the visits to him of the Russian Consul, all of which I learnt from other sources, and, taking into consideration our relations with Mubarak, I do not consider this was straightforward on his part.

Mubarak was not present on the occasions of the visits of the Russians to Abdul Aziz.

Both Mubarak and Abdul Aziz received presents of guns, watches, &c., from the Captains of the French and Russian ships.

On returning to Bushire on the 10th March, I reported the matter to the Resident, who telegraphed the substance of it to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. KEMP.

No. 43.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 9th April, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, May 7, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, March 16, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram dated the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian cruiser "Boyarin" and the French cruiser "Infernet" left Bushire in company on the night of the 4th March, and reached Koweit the next day. I forward, for the information of the Government of India, translated copies of two letters received by me from the news agent at Koweit on the subject.

2. His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" returned to Bushire on the 6th instant, and I requested Commander Kemp to proceed to Koweit, as I wished to obtain some information from the Sheikh relative to the piracy on the Koweit boat which occurred in the northern end of the Gulf early in February last. The "Sphinx" left at once, and reached Koweit on the 7th March. Commander Kemp called upon Sheikh Mubarak, and also took the opportunity of visiting Abdul Aziz after the Russian Consul had been to see him. He was informed by Abdul Aziz that the Russian Consul had offered him assistance in the way of money and rifles.

3. It is, of course, possible that Abdul Aziz made this statement to Commander Kemp, hoping thereby to interest the British Government on his behalf, and I understand from Commander Kemp that Mubarak subsequently sounded him as to the possibility of the British Government making an advance of money to Abdul Aziz, who wanted money in order to strengthen his position at Riadh and continue his struggle with the Amir of Nejd. I am inclined, however, to believe that the Russian Consul actually did make the offer, but whether he did so with the authority of his own Government I am unable to say. It is difficult for me to see what interest the Russian Government can have in supporting the Wahabi claimant against the Amir of Nejd, more especially when the ultimate result of the struggle which is now proceeding cannot be foreseen. The failure of the Amir of Nejd to reassert his supremacy certainly shows that the power and influence of the present Amir cannot be compared with that enjoyed by his predecessor, but at the same time the position of the Wahabis is very insecure, and I should not be at all surprised to see the Amir ultimately victorious.

There is, of course, no doubt that Abdul Aziz would accept assistance from any one who offered it to him, and it is quite possible that the Russian Consul made the offer in the hope that victory would soon declare itself on the Wahabi side and without the intention of performing the promise. Possibly, too, he made the offer with a view to find out if Abdul Aziz had any understanding with us.

4. I have not yet been able to ascertain what actually passed at the interview between Sheikh Mubarak and the Russian Consul. I think it highly probable that on this occasion, as on former occasions, the Russian Consul tried to come to some understanding with Sheikh Mubarak, but I am not inclined to believe that the Sheikh has responded to his advances.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

News Agent, Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

March 5, 1903.

ON the 3rd March, 1903, Abdul Aziz-bin-Feisal (el Saood) arrived in the suburbs of Koweit with his troops and encamped at Arifieh, which is five hours' distant from Koweit. On the 4th March, Abdul Aziz, accompanied by his brother Muhammad and 100 sowars, came to Koweit and visited Sheikh Mubarak. Up till now his tents and troops are at Arifieh. He and his brother are in Koweit, where they intend to stay till the (Bakri) Eid. After the Eid he intends to fight Ibn Rashid.

Regarding Ibn Rashid, he is in the suburbs of Kasim. He is now very weak, and his tribes have deserted him for fear of Abdul Aziz. Abdul Rahman, father of Abdul Aziz, has settled at Riadh with all his troops. They have made Ibn Rashid's work difficult. Let us see what God does. Sheikh Jaber (son of Sheikh Mubarak) is at present at Jehra with his troops, and Sheikh Mubarak himself is in Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

News Agent, Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

March 8, 1903.

TWO men-of-war, one Russian and the other French, came together in Koweit five hours after sunrise on the 5th March, 1903. An hour later two men came from the Russian man-of-war to see Sheikh Mubarak. They were Persians, and their names are Haji Abdul Reza and Haji Ahmed. They informed Sheikh Mubarak that the Russian Consul would land the next day and would breakfast with him. They then told Sheikh Mubarak that the Consul wished that Sheikh Sabah may be sent with them, with a view to his showing him the ships. Sheikh Mubarak accordingly sent Sheikh Sabah, accompanied by ten men. On the 6th the Russian Consul, accompanied by the Captain and two officers of the Russian ship and the Captain and two officers of the French ship, came ashore and visited Sheikh Mubarak, who showed them courtesy and politeness. After partaking of breakfast, they went to see Abdul Aziz-bin-Feisal (el Saood), and remained with him for about two hours. After this they all returned to the ships. On the 7th the Consul and ten men from the Russian ship and the French Captain and ten men from his ship came ashore to see Sheikh Mubarak. The Consul presented Sheikh Mubarak with three "tofangs" (guns), one of which was a double-barrel gun, the other a Mauser, and a five-chambered revolver. Then they went to Abdul Aziz, and the Consul gave him a Mauser rifle. They remained two hours with him. At the time of their departure, the Consul asked Abdul Aziz to go with him to the ships, so that he may show them to him, but Abdul Aziz asked to be excused on the score of fatigue (he had undergone). The Consul accepted the excuse, and asked Abdul Aziz to send his brother. Abdul Aziz accordingly sent his brother, accompanied by ten men, with the Consul.

It was arranged that the ships should leave on the 8th March.

No. 44.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 11.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 9, 1903.

IN the course of conversation yesterday the Vali informed me, with reference to the arbitration now pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, that Mubarek is constantly pressing him to intercede with the Sultan on behalf of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem-el-Bader, who, as reported in Mr. Wratislaw's despatch No. 29 of the 3rd June, 1902, was condemned to ten years' imprisonment for importing seditious literature.

His Excellency stated that they were very anxious at Constantinople to effect a speedy settlement of the Sabah family disputes, and, if he could satisfy them in this respect, as he felt confident of doing, the Sultan would probably not be averse to giving expression to his Imperial approval by relieving the culprit. Such a step would, he informed me, be doubly felicitous, inasmuch as it would serve to strengthen Mubarek's allegiance to His Majesty by the lasting ties of gratitude for the release of his relative, and would, at the same time, save the Sheikh from the odium of having made the young man a scapegoat for his own indiscretion in the matter of the "Khalifa" newspaper.

The Vali added that there was no further development of the situation. Three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and they, with Mubarek's consent, had nominated Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, the Nahib's brother, a man of great intelligence and merit, as umpire. Mubarek has not yet signed the reference to arbitration, but, as soon as he did so and returned the document, the sittings would begin, and would be held under his Excellency's personal supervision at the Government serai.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 45.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 18.)

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 16, 1903.

I CALLED on the Vali to-day with reference to an attack on a Koweit boat and the murder of six men by a pirate bellam, alleged to belong to Ali Valid, of Dora, in Khor Moosa, opposite Um-el-Dabab, on the 3rd February last. Mr. Wratislaw on the 23rd March furnished his Excellency with the names of the culprits and ample information to enable him to trace them. So far, no answer has been received to this communication.

The Vali replied that he had summoned the Mudir of Fao, and directed him to make an inquiry. The results, so far, were negative. The man reported as killed had been found, and denied all knowledge of the affair. It was an easy matter for them to substitute one man for another, and the primitive character of local government in the riverain villages at the mouth of the Shatt rendered all efforts to identify the culprits nugatory. The Nakhil's people at Ziadih denied all knowledge of the matter. His Excellency would continue his researches, but anticipated no result. He had no vessels at his disposal to police these waters, and declined all responsibility for this and similar attacks. The Arabs were adepts in the art of lying, and he had no means of ascertaining how far the individuals mentioned were implicated in the affair.

I replied that I could not accept the Mudir's statements or rest satisfied with the abortive results of the examination. I pointed out that our vessels of war were in these waters for the purpose of suppressing piracy, and we expected the Turks to co-operate. The projected visit of the "Sphinx" to Bussorah was in connection with this affair. The Sublime Porte had promised two vessels in 1902, but, so far, the promise had remained unfulfilled. I explained to his Excellency that, as our inquiries distinctly tended to show that the pirates had taken refuge in Ottoman territory, I could not admit his irresponsibility if he failed to prosecute the search with due

diligence. I suggested that as proof of his good intentions he should send a trustworthy emissary to Fao to conduct the inquiry, and that he should arrest the men, whose names had been supplied, and allow my Dragoman to attend at their interrogatory.

His Excellency consented to send some one, but demurred as to the attendance of my Dragoman until he had seen them himself. He said he would not abate his endeavours to trace the culprits, but their discovery was no easy matter and required time. As to the ships, he had met the "Sphinx"—"the Captain was a Bimbashi and a nice man; let them come."

It is evident from the Vali's remarks and his apathetic attitude in regard to the whole affair that he either can or will do nothing to prosecute a serious inquiry, and the impression left on my mind by the interview, which lasted an hour and a-half, was that, as the sufferers belonged to Koweit, his Excellency was disinclined to go out of his way to protect their interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 46.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 27, 1903.

CONFLICTING accounts have been received here regarding hostilities between the Arab tribes near Koweit and the movements of Ibn Reshid.

As far as I can ascertain, Ibn Reshid attacked Riadh several times early in April, and was repulsed by Abdurrahman-es-Saoud with the loss of some men and horses. The Amir subsequently retreated.

The Mutair tribe, which had deserted Mubarak, was lately pursued by Abdul-Aziz-es-Saoud, accompanied by the Sheikh of Koweit's son Jaber, two or three day's distance from Koweit. They are reported to have caught the fugitives, on whom they inflicted considerable loss, and to have captured a quantity of loot.

Ibn Reshid is still far away from Koweit in the Nejd. Reports as to his movements are very vague.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 47.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

(No. 20.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 4, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a Report on my journeys to Um Kasr and Khor Abdullah, together with a rough map,* showing the routes taken.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Report by Acting Consul Crow on his Journey to the Um Kasr and Khor Abdullah.

ON the 29th April I rode to Zobeir, accompanied by Mr. Lyle, agent of Messrs. Gray Mackenzie, and thence, on the following day, to Um Kasr. Zobeir lies in the desert ten miles from Bussorah in a north-westerly direction. About 8 miles from the town we passed the site of Old Zobeir, marked by a ruined mosque and the foundations of a few houses, situated on slightly elevated ground. In spring the desert between this

* Not printed.

point and Bussorah is intersected by channels of water formed by the overflow of the Euphrates. When there is a high rise in the river these streams flow as far as the Khor Abdullah, but rapidly diminish as the river falls. The surface of the plain is covered, in consequence, with rich alluvial mud, and the ground might be made exceedingly productive.

There is a shallow trench running about half-way from Bussorah to Zobeir, dry when we passed it, but, every three or four years, sufficiently filled with water to admit of navigation in a "bellam," or native boat, drawing about 6 inches. When the river is abnormally high this trench is joined up to the irrigation canals, which water the date plantations at Bussorah, and a "bellam" can travel from the Shatt-el-Arab to the site of Old Zobeir, a distance of about 12 miles. But these occasions are rare.

The Turkish outpost at Um Kasr is 25 to 30 miles from Zobeir. The road lies south-east, and passes near Raffieh, a farm-house and garden belonging to the Nakib of Bussorah, 6 miles from Zobeir. In winter and early spring the plain, as far as the eye can see, is covered with grass. Between Raffieh and Zobeir are small patches of tamarisk. There are no wells on the direct road to Um Kasr, and caravans prefer the western route via Mount Sinam and Sefwan, where they are plentiful.

The road was smooth and firm. We covered the distance to Um Kasr in four hours. There is no creek or channel of water between Um Kasr and Zobeir. Shortly after passing Raffieh the fringe of a great marsh is visible on the east. Heavy winter rains, coupled with a strong south wind, may, and, I am told, sometimes do force the sea as far as the upper confines of this marsh to within a few miles of Raffieh. At other seasons of the year the tidal flow inland is very small, and does not affect the marsh far beyond Um Kasr.

The shore of the Khor Abdullah from the entrance of the Shatt-el-Arab to Um Kasr is low alluvial ground, covered in places with reeds and grass, and elsewhere with mud. The water carried in by the tide forms as it were an overflow of the sea, extending inland for some miles. At high tide, this depression is covered with a broad sheet of shallow water, which, at low tide, is transformed into a series of mud flats.

The fort at Um Kasr is a small rectangular enclosure, surrounded by a mud wall, loopholed for firing purposes, and containing quarters for the garrison of a Yuz bashi (Captain) and twenty men, who are relieved every three months. The full complement is forty, but only half that number were present. A mud platform runs round the inside of the wall, and the place seems suitably built for defence. It is about a quarter of a mile from the edge of the creek, and, according to the naval survey, 2 miles from the open sea. Close by is the old ruined fort, where the Turks encamped when the post was first occupied.

We spent the day at Um Kasr. There was a spring tide and a southerly wind. At low water, the creek is nothing but a mud flat, with a shallow channel on the western side, through which the tide recedes. At high tide, there is a wide expanse of water to the east as far as the eye can see, and this extends inland, following the natural depression of the ground, for a few miles north-west of Um Kasr, in the direction of Raffieh. It is, however, very shallow. A "bellam" could possibly proceed a couple of miles inland, north-east of Um Kasr, at high tide, but its progress would be doubtful. The depth of water at high tide in the creek at Um Kasr was not more than three or four feet. Soldiers wade to catch fish, and the water is not above their waist.

As the sea is approached, the water naturally deepens. The naval survey of last year deals fully with the question of soundings at the western junction of the creek with the sea. There is no accommodation for ships of any draught at fort Um Kasr. The channel is a shallow mud bed at low water. The nature of the soil and the alluvial deposit lead me to suppose that the work of dredging a sufficient portion of the creek to enable ships to approach Um Kasr would be enormous and continuous, as the winter rains occasion constant silting.

As regards a railway terminus, it would probably be found more practical to take the line direct to the sea-board, to the west of Fort Um Kasr. The ground is slightly elevated and firm. Brackish water is found anywhere in the neighbourhood, at a depth of 4 or 5 feet.

Um Kasr is a general watering spot for the Arabs of the desert. Quarrels at the well between the tribes are frequent, and often lead to bloodshed. I am informed that the presence of the Turkish garrison serves to check these disputes.

On our return journey, we skirted the edge of the marsh for a few miles in a north-easterly direction, and then regained the Zobeir road to the north-west.

On another occasion I rode out from Hamdan, a spot situated six miles south of

Bussorah, and thence struck due west across the desert, skirting the marsh to a point considerably south-east of Zobeir. I then turned due south, in the direction of the Khor Abdullah, and found slightly elevated firm ground leading to the sea-shore, which I reached in seven hours from Bussorah. There was a narrow creek running inland, which I take to be the channel marked on the chart as lying about 4 miles north-east of Um Kasr. The natives have erected a small cairn of mud and stones on the sea-shore. The creek runs north-west, eventually losing itself in the marsh. The surrounding swamp prevented me from following it for any distance. Um Kasr is 4 or 5 miles to the west as the crow flies, but the marsh is impassable. It would have been necessary to make a wide détour of 10 miles or more in order to reach it from this point.

I annex a rough map for convenience, showing the routes taken.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Bussorah, May 4, 1903.

No. 48.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 9.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 11, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed to your Excellency copies of a despatch and inclosures which I have received from the British Resident at Bushire with reference to the arbitration between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, and of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Acting Consul Crow to Acting Consul-General Kemball.

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 11, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 373 of 5th May, 1903, and to return the inclosures in Sheikh Mubarek's letter, as desired.

The Vali of Bussorah has shown evidence of good will and a desire to hasten a settlement by complying with the Sheikh's request in regard to a further change in the Committee of Arbitration.

I trust the present selection will prove acceptable. The Sheikh on his side should now sign and transmit the reference to arbitration and raise no further obstacles, unless there are grave reasons for contesting the eligibility of the present Arbitrators and Umpire.

Pending a settlement of the questions at issue the Sheikh's nephews are in poor circumstances, and any delay in the proceedings enhances the difficulties of solution. The Sheikh's interests will best be served by an attitude of compliance.

It is to be presumed that their protection may confidently be intrusted to the persons he has chosen. The opposite parties have an equal right to claim that their representatives shall be intrusted in their concerns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Acting Consul-General Kemball to Acting Consul Crow.

(No. 373. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 5, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter which I addressed to Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit on receipt of your telegram dated the 28th ultimo, and also a copy (in translation) of the Sheikh's reply, which was received by me yesterday. I also forward the inclosures to Sheikh Mubarek's letter, for perusal and favour of return.

[1589]

K

I shall be obliged if you will, after perusal of the correspondence, favour me with your views as to what reply I should send to the Sheikh, and what advice I should give him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 48.

Acting Consul-General Kemball to Sheikh Mubarek-bin-Subah.

(After compliments.)

May 1, 1903.

I AM writing to you on the subject of the arbitration regarding your properties, about which we have already corresponded.

I have been informed by our Consul at Bussorah that three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and that Seyyid Ahmed Pasha had been selected as Umpire.

I have now heard from our Consul that you have written a letter to the Wali of Bussorah, in which you decline to accept Seyyid Ahmed Pasha as Umpire, and also two of the Arbitrators appointed by your nephews. I was exceedingly sorry to hear this, as I fear that the arrangements made for the settlement of the matter may now be jeopardized. I would beg to point out to you that your interests are safe in the hands of the Arbitrators whom you have chosen, and it seems to me that your nephews may with justice claim to appoint persons on their side whom they trust. You had, I am informed, already consented to leave the choice of an Umpire in the hands of the Arbitrators, and their choice of Seyyid Ahmed Pasha was unanimous. The Consul at Bussorah considers the choice to be a good one, and is of opinion that you may safely leave your interests in the hands of the people now appointed to adjudicate on the case. I strongly urge you, therefore, to put no further difficulties in the way of the settlement of this long-standing question, but to sign at once the reference to arbitration, and return it to the Wali without delay. I am convinced that it will be to your interest to do so, and you may rest assured that if you accept my advice in the matter the Consul at Bussorah, who has already exerted himself on your behalf, will not fail to continue to watch your interests. The present opportunity of bringing about a settlement of the matter is a very good one, and I fear that if lost no such opportunity will occur again. I trust that I shall be favoured with a reply to this letter, and that you will give it to the Captain of the ship, who will bring it to me. I hope that you are in the enjoyment of good health, and that your news is good.

Inclosure 4 in No. 48.

Sheikh Mubarek-el-Subah to Acting Consul-General Kemball.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

5th Sufer, 1321 (May 4, 1903).

I HAVE received your letter dated 3rd Sufer, 1321, and understood contents. As regards the claims of the sons of Mahomed and Jerrah, they have been set up on false pretences, through the instigation of the wicked Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and those who are on their side approve of their proceedings.

On (date blank) an order under No. 405 came from His Majesty the Sultan on the Wali of Bussorah, during the incumbency of Mahomed Enis Pasha. The order was communicated to me, and I had accepted it. Enis Pasha had appointed the Arbitrators, and I had agreed to accept their decision for or against me, but the boys refused on account of the bad intentions which they and Yusuf entertained. Moreover, during the time Handi Pasha and Mohsin Pasha then wrote to me about their refusal. I am agreeable to accept everything by way of right and gratefulness, but they adopt enmity in their ways. All those who are with them are not well disposed towards me. Their object is to take mine away from me by degrees and by tricks with my consent. I am under your shadow and protection, and am agreeable to that which is right and just. The order of the Sultan and the Walis is this, that the Arbitrators should have no interest in the matter, and have no connection with either

side. I have appointed Kasem Khadeiri, Agha Jaffer, and Monsoor Suleiman as Arbitrators on my behalf. They have no connection with me, are men of means, and will tell the truth for or against me. The boys have appointed Abdul Wahab Kertas, Ahmed Sana, and Hamed Sakeir. Ahmed Sana has no connection, and I accept him, but Abdul Wahab Kertas is Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim's Bussorah agent, and agent for his business matters, while Ahmed Sakeir is a paid servant, and is not a person of weight and peaceful feelings. As regards Ahmed, brother of the Nakib, he is a disturber of the peace, and I have seen many things from him which prevent me from putting any trust in him. According to your order I have described to you the details: I myself, my sons, subjects, country, and property are under your shadow and protection. All my affairs are in your hands and under your eyes. It was incumbent on me to let you know the particulars and the cause of my fears which I see. In spite of this, I am under your orders and accept whatever appears advisable to you. I inclose herewith for your information a copy of the order of the Sultan, sealed by the Wali, in which it is stated that the Arbitrators should be disinterested parties, and have no connection with either side; also copies of my letters to the Wali, and Wali's reply in original. They do not wish the righteous and just people to have anything to do with this matter. You will see that the Wali has told me that he does not like Christians to take part in this case, whereas the Christians are righteous and just. After you have read the letters, I place myself under your orders as regards what you desire to be done.

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 344. Confidential.)

Therapia, June 16, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 256 of the 19th August, 1902, and to my despatch No. 156 of the 24th March last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bussorah, which I received on the 16th ultimo, relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, and to the case of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Bussorah agent, who was condemned to 10 years' imprisonment for subscribing to the seditious newspaper, "Khilafat."

I brought the case of Abdul Aziz to the notice of the Grand Vizier on the 18th ultimo, and his Highness promised to do what he could to obtain the man's release, saying that in any case he considered the sentence too severe.

On the 9th instant I received a telegram from Mr. Crow, stating that Sheikh Mubarek insisted upon the release of his former agent before beginning the arbitration, on the ground that he could intrust his documents to no other person.

I consequently again spoke to the Grand Vizier yesterday about Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem.

His Highness said that after the last interview I had with him on this subject he had asked for the papers to be sent from Bussorah; that they had not yet arrived, and that he would again telegraph for them. He hoped to be able to meet my views in the matter, and to find some irregularity in the judicial proceedings which would enable him, acting in agreement with the Minister of Justice, to quash the sentence.

I told his Highness that the arbitration between the Sheikh and his nephews was at a standstill, as the former refused to go on with it until his agent was released; that it was important that this question of property, which was pregnant of danger, should be settled with the mutual consent of both parties; that, if the property at stake was left in doubt, a regrettable incident in connection with it might occur at any time, and that His Majesty's Government could not refuse support to the Sheikh of Koweit if he were clearly wronged and unjustly treated.

His Highness did not demur to these observations, or question our right of interference.

I am advising both the Acting Consul at Bussorah and the British Resident at Bushire of the action I have taken, as it is desirable that if Abdul Aziz is released in consequence of my representations, the Sheikh should be aware that he owes it to the influence and support of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 9, 1903.

IN the course of conversation yesterday the Vali informed me, with reference to the arbitration now pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, that Mubarek is constantly pressing him to intercede with the Sultan in behalf of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem-el-Bader, who, as reported in Mr. Wratislaw's despatch No. 29 of the 2nd June, 1902, was condemned to ten years' imprisonment for importing seditious literature.

His Excellency states that they were very anxious at Constantinople to effect a speedy settlement of the Sabah family disputes, and, if he could satisfy them in this respect, as he felt confident of doing, the Sultan would probably not be averse to expressing his Imperial approval by relieving the culprit. Such a step would, he informed me, be doubly felicitous, as it would serve to strengthen Mubarek's allegiance to His Majesty by the lasting ties of gratitude for the release of his relative, and would at the same time save the Sheikh from the odium of having made the young man a scapegoat for his own indiscretion in the matter of the "Khalifa" paper.

The Vali added that there was no farther development of the situation. Three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and they, with Mubarek's consent, have nominated Seyyid Ahmed Pasha, the Nahib's brother, a man of great intelligence and merit, as Umpire. Mubarek has not yet signed the reference to arbitration, but as soon as he did so and returned the documents the sittings would begin, and would be held under his Excellency's personal supervision at the Serai.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. W. CROW.

No. 50.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 21st May, relative to the proposed interception of the Arabic newspaper "Naseh-el-Ummeh."

India Office, June 20, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Bushire, February 21, 1903.

WITH reference to Foreign Department letter, dated the 26th January last, I have the honour to forward herewith a specimen copy of the leaflet "Naseh-el-Ummeh," together with the cover in which it was received.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Extract from the "Nasib-ul-Ummeh" of 26th Rabi-ul-Akbar, 1320 H. (August 1, 1902).

(Translation.)

KOWEIT.—Our Bushire correspondent writes that Turkish troops have occupied the district of Koweit, except its fort. The Indian papers state that the British Government have been endeavouring since the last fifty years to make the Persian Gulf an English

lake, and it is impossible that it should now slip out of their fingers. The English Government will not allow the Turkish Government or the Russian or the French or the German Governments to interfere in the affairs of the Persian Gulf.

The first thing necessary for the English Government is to seize Koweit and Nejd, turning out the Turks from the latter. The Indian papers circulate such foolish threats and reports without cause, while they know that the claim of the Turkish Government is quite clear, and there is no dispute about it. From olden times Koweit is a dependency of Turkish territory. It is on the same footing as the territory under the Muntafik. The Turkish Government have been receiving, when necessary, military aid from Koweit. In 1287 H, when the people of Nejd rebelled against Turkish government, the Sheikhs and the people of Koweit joined the Turkish troops to suppress the rebellion. The allegiance of Koweit is known from the time of Sultan Selim I. Ever since that time the people of Koweit were included in the Turkish army, being under the command of Turkish officers. Ever since that time the Sheikhs of Koweit have been under the orders of the Walis of Bussorah and Bagdad. This assertion of ours is supported by the fact that no Sheikh was appointed to Koweit from olden times, except under the orders of the Turkish Kings, because Koweit has been a division of Turkish territory, being on the east continuous with Bussorah, on the west and north with Nejd. These are clear proofs that Koweit is a dependency of Turkish Government. The English have no claim to it. They are moved by avarice and aggression. The Turkish Government will not bear it, and they are right. If the English Government do not refrain from aggression upon Koweit, it is possible that the Turkish Government will defend it, and they will be helped by other European Powers because their right to Koweit is quite clear.

Our correspondent from Bussorah writes that the Turkish Government have placed their troops in three places in the district of Koweit, that Sheikh Mubarek was frightened at this, and begged the Turkish Government to forgive him for his past action, and to fix for him a monthly salary; and this was done, as in the case of Ibn-i-Rashid.

As to Indian Government, when they saw that the Turkish Government were in earnest and active, they wanted to build towers round about Koweit, and to place guns and troops in them. But Sheikh Mubarek declined their proposals, and added that Koweit was Turkish territory, and that he could not place it under the British protection. We praise God for having enabled the Turkish Government to recover its territory, and to turn out its enemies from it.

The Indian papers expressed their extreme regret at the arrival of the French ironclad "Catinat" at Koweit. The papers circulated a report to the effect that when the French Commander visited Sheikh Mubarek, the latter told him arrogantly that, so long as the English Government helped him, he required no help from any one. The Indian papers publish such ridiculous reports, and put them down to Sheikh Mubarek's credit. But Sheikh Mubarek is a sensible man. He will not address foreign Powers and their officials except in terms which are fit and proper to express. How can they attribute such foolish things to Sheikh Mubarek? We consider such reports as only emanating from mischief-making agency which is working among the Arabs.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Simla, May 18, 1903.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 21st February last, forwarding a specimen copy of an Arabic newspaper entitled the "Naseh-el-Ummeh," the circulation of which it was proposed to check.

2. A copy of the issue sent by you was received in October 1902 from the Director-General of the Post Office of India, who had caused it to be intercepted at the post-office at Muscat. Since that date no further copies have been received from this source. The Government of India presume, therefore, that its dissemination has ceased, and do not propose to take any further action in the matter unless the paper reappears.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. RUSSELL.

No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 4th June, respecting Koweit affairs.

India Office, July 3, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Bushire, April 25, 1903.*

IN continuation of my Confidential letter, dated the 2nd February last, and previous correspondence on the subject of the hostilities between Abdul Aziz-bin-Mutaab Ibn Rashid and his Wahabi rival on the El Saood family, I have the honour to inclose, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter which I have received from Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit. The news contained in this letter is corroborated by information which has reached me from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Sheikh Mubarak-el-Sabah to Resident, Aden.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

15th Muharram, 1321 (April 14, 1903).

ABDUL AZIZ-BIN-MUTAAB IBN RASHID proceeded to Riyadh territory with a view to attacking it suddenly at night. He reached it on the night of the 4th Muharram, 1321, but Abdul Rahman-bin-Feysal-el-Saood and the inhabitants of Riyadh were on their guard and went out the next morning to oppose him. They defeated him, killed many of his men, killed and captured many horses and put to flight the rest. The whole Nejd country and the tribes have turned out to fight.

Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-el-Saood, accompanied by his men, reached on the 1st Zil Hijjah (1st March, 1903) Neta village, which is between El Hassa and Koweit, and collected the tribes of Nejd and Hedjaz, and on the 2nd Muharram went towards Ibn Rashid's tribes. On the 9th Muharram he attacked them, killed many of their Headmen, and captured their cattle. The Headmen who have been killed are Nakeilan-bin-Jeber bin Sheikh Abdeh, a relative of Ibn Rashid, and Mazaoor, a dependent of Ibn Rashid. The Sheikhs of the Mutayer tribe who have been killed are Ammash-el-Doaiyeh, Feysal-el-Doaiyeh, Abdulla-el-Doaiyeh and many others. This news is true, and I am communicating it to you for information.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Acting Consul Crow to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, May 26, 1903.

THE arbitration of the Court has been accepted by the Sheikh of Koweit, who has signed and returned the reference to the Vali.

The sittings will begin shortly.

The Sheikh's statement that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim has arrived at Dora is not confirmed here. I am informed that he is at Boreida and will not return. I have informed Colonel Kemball.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Acting Consul Crow to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bussorah, May 29, 1903.

PLEASE see previous correspondence regarding Koweit arbitration.

Mutual friends of both parties are endeavouring to settle, out of Court, their differences in regard to property, and a draft proposal has been submitted to the Sheikh, by which the nephews agree to accept less than their legal share. If Sheikh agrees, arbitration will be unnecessary, and deeds will be executed in the usual way before the Cadi.

This course is approved by Vali, and no objections have been raised by me.

No. 52.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**Foreign Office, July 4, 1903.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople* relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, and reporting his language to the Grand Vizier on the question of the release from imprisonment of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Bussorah Agent.

Lord Lansdowne would propose, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to approve the proceedings of Sir N. O'Connor, as reported in this despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 53.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, July 5.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)

Bussorah, June 8, 1903.

Sir,

IN my telegram No. 33 of the 25th ultimo, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that the Sheikh of Koweit had accepted the Court of Arbitration and signed and returned the reference to the Vali. Shortly before this Abdul Wahab Pasha el Kartas, a friend of the nephews who, though not a member of the Court, seems to be acting as *amicus curiae*, proffered his services to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute, and a draft proposal was submitted by him to Mubarek, in conjunction with Haji Mansur Chelebi, one of the Sheikh's Arbitrators, who assisted him in drawing it up.

Kartas, who called upon me with reference to the arbitration, and who has been at some pains to explain to me the points of difference between the parties and the rights of the case, as viewed from the nephews' standpoint, assured me that the proposed arrangement was a very favourable one for Mubarek, and that the nephews were accepting less than their legal rights in consenting to it.

From a letter which the Sheikh of Koweit addressed to the Resident at Bushire on the 1st June the proffered settlement seems to have been quite the other way. Zein Ajerawieh and Gherdilan were to be given up to the nephews entirely, and one-third of the Fao and Sofieh properties besides. Mubarek has declined it, and has introduced a new element into the case by demanding the release of his former Agent, Abdul Aziz bin Salim-el-Bader, now in prison, before beginning the arbitration. The Sheikh alleges that he has important documents in his possession relative to the case, and can intrust them to no one else. He has, accordingly, instructed his Representatives to take no further steps in the matter till this man is released. The Vali, who admits the severity of the Agent's sentence, and says they must do something for him, is willing, as already reported, to assist in getting the sentences commuted as soon as the Sabah family property dispute is settled, but this does not satisfy Mubarek, who evidently hopes to secure his release merely by consenting to arbitrate.

I inclose a copy of a letter, which I sent to-day to the Resident at Bushire, asking him to urge the Sheikh to stand by the arbitration and leave the property questions in the hands of his Arbitrators. I am informed that certain papers, which Mubarek has in his possession, would, if produced, throw considerable light on the legal rights of the parties to the properties, but that the Sheikh is only inclined to show those which tell in his favour.

Mubarek's attitude throughout the negotiations has been so tricky and childish, that I can place very little reliance in his promise to submit his differences to arbitration. If, as is averred, he is withholding important documents, the Arbitrators cannot possibly arrive at an equitable understanding. He admits himself that he has papers which he will only confide to someone, who happens to be out of reach. My only conclusion is, therefore, that he does not intend them to come to an understanding at all, but hopes to obtain the release of his Agent as a reward for consenting to arbitrate, considering himself at liberty to withdraw from any proceedings if they are not entirely to his liking.

As the Vali admits he has no means of coercing the Sheikh of Koweit, and if the latter declines to go on with the arbitration nothing will be said to him from the Turkish side. And I presume we, on our part, shall not incur the responsibility of forcing Mubarek into an arrangement, which may very probably be distasteful to him, whatever the rights of the parties may be.

In the meantime, I am informed that the Sheikh has been raiding again. He is reported to have attacked the Beni Twala of the Shammar Arabs, belonging to the Amir, at a place called Khamissiye about the middle of last month, and to have captured 800 (*sic*) camels. Khamissiye is near Chabishiye, some 10 hours distance from Zobeir in a south-west direction. His malcontent relative, Mubarek-el-Athbi of Zobeir, who accompanied the Beni Twala, escaped.

The reports regarding the return of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim to these parts are untrue. Mubarek wrote very strongly on the subject, and was convinced he had gone to Zobeir and thence to Dorah. I mentioned the matter to the Vali, who assured me he was in the Kassim district near Boreyda: "A pleasant place in the desert with good water, where certain lady members of his family have been told to join him," so the Vali told me. I made independent inquiries at Zobeir and Fao and could find no trace of him at either place. His cousin Sheikh Salel-el-Ibrahim returned lately from Mecca and went to Dorah after performing quarantine here. Mubarek's informants probably confused the names.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Acting-Consul Crow to British Resident, Bushire.

(No. 8.)
Sir,

Bussorah, June 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Sheikh of Koweit, dated the 1st instant.

The Sheikh is under no obligation to accept the proposed amicable settlement, which was sent to him in lieu of referring the questions at issue direct to the Arbitrators and which, I understand, he has declined. But he seems to be under every obligation of good faith to stand by the settlement by arbitration, and to abide by the decision of the Arbitrators he has selected.

I am sorry to learn that he has instructed his lawyer and his Arbitrators to defer all action until his former Agent, Abdul Aziz, who is now in prison, appears and takes charge of certain papers essential to the case, which the Sheikh refuses to intrust to any one else.

In fact he imposes the release of this man as a condition precedent to any arrangement.

The Sheikh's proper course is to leave the property question in the hands of the Arbitrators to be decided according to law and equity, and to place all necessary documents in the hands of his Representatives. When a settlement has been effected the Vali promises to use his good offices with the Sultan to get Abdul Aziz's sentence

commuted. But I do not think Mubarek will gain anything by bringing him forward before.

As the line adopted by the Sheikh delays proceedings, I would ask you to be so good as to urge him to adopt this course and to do nothing which may disturb the present arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 54.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, July 13.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)

Bussorah, June 13, 1903.

Sir,
MY telegrams during April and May will have given your Excellency an outline of the negotiations preparatory to the Sheikh of Koweit's final acceptance of the Court of Arbitration, and of the obstacles by which they have been impeded. In order, however, to keep your Excellency more fully informed of the steps taken by the Vali and myself in the matter, I will briefly summarize the various stages of the proceedings in the order they have occurred.

My first interviews with the Vali gave me the impression that his Excellency was somewhat unwilling to admit my active interference in the arbitration, regarding it as a matter exclusively within the competence of the Ottoman authorities, and the position of the Consulate as that of a friendly onlooker, whose interest in the welfare of one of the parties made it desirable to keep informed of what passed.

In order to disabuse the Vali's mind of this notion, I sent for the vilayet Dragoman and desired him to point out to his Excellency that my *locus standi* in the matter was based on my official instructions; that, according to them, the arbitration would be conducted under the supervision of the Consulate; that I was not only to be kept informed of all steps taken, but also to be consulted at all stages of the proceedings, and that, if his Excellency attended the sittings of the Court, I was instructed to be present as well. I asked him to tell the Vali that I desire to see the Arbitrators and Umpire as soon as possible, in order to discuss matters with them directly.

I received a message in reply that his Excellency quite understood the position of the Consulate, and would keep me fully informed, but that he was precluded from writing officially on the matter, and hoped that if he met my wishes privately it would be sufficient. He added that there was no question of his attending the meetings, at which only the Arbitrators and Umpire would be present.

Mubarek's representatives then called on me, and I explained to them and to Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, the Umpire, whom I visited later, that the Consulate took an active interest in the conduct of the negotiations, and requested them to keep me informed of everything that passed. They were none of them very sanguine of success, but I was favourably impressed with Haji Mansur Chelebi and the Umpire, Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, who took a sensible view of the question and discussed it freely.

When I exchanged these visits the reference paper, which had been sent to the Sheikh for rectification, had not been returned, and things were at a standstill. On the 24th April I called again on the Vali, as I had heard that Mubarek had refused to accept the Court as it stood, and his Excellency informed me that the Sheikh objected to Seyyed Ahmed as Umpire and to two of nephews' nominees, one of whom was Abdul Wahab-el Kartas, on the ground that they were interested persons, hostile to himself, and openly allied with his enemy Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. The Vali assured me that Mubarek was needlessly apprehensive, and remarked that the nephews were free to choose their own friends to represent them, in the same way as the Sheikh had chosen his, and that if they showed any personal feeling in the matter, such bias would be counterbalanced by the votes of the opposite side. It was not reasonable, he said, that the Sheikh should seek to have the whole Court on his side.

He added that it was the second time that Mubarek had raised objections to the nominees, and that as regards the Umpire, he has consented to leave the choice to the Arbitrators themselves, who had unanimously selected the Nakib's brother, as being a man of great intelligence and living much apart, the Vali considered him to be entirely without bias. He finally begged me to communicate with the Sheikh, and to do what was possible to prevent the arrangements from falling through.

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I told the Vali the Sheikh might have good cause to distrust the Umpire. I did not attach much importance to the personal feelings of the nephews' Arbitrators, as their voices would be met by those of Mubarek's representatives, and I judged the latter capable of defending his interests. But it was essential, I thought, to have a trustworthy and impartial person as Umpire. Personally, I told him, I approved of Seyyed Ahmed, but I was new to the place, and could not trust my own judgment entirely in the matter. I promised his Excellency to communicate with Mubarek and to try and bring him to terms.

I accordingly telegraphed to your Excellency and to India on the 25th April, and wrote privately to the Resident at Bushire, requesting him to urge the Sheikh to withdraw his objections, and not to jeopardize the arbitration. I told him I thought Mubarek's interests were in good hands, and that he might rest assured I would watch them, and exert myself on his behalf.

I then had another interview with the Umpire, Seyyed Ahmed, and found he had no knowledge of the Sheikh's objections to himself, and, as I hoped that the arrangements would ultimately remain undisturbed, I did not think it necessary to enlighten him.

On the 5th May the Resident at Bushire sent me copies of his letter to Mubarek, and of the answer he had received. He also sent me translations of the correspondence which had passed between the Sheikh and the Vali. The Resident asked my opinion as to what he should say in reply. The Sheikh, in these letters, stated his reasons for objecting to the nephews' Arbitrators, and claimed that, according to the text of the Imperial Iradé, they should be persons without connection with, or interest in, either side.

He said he had personal reasons for distrusting the Umpire, and did not wish to trouble him. Kartas he denounced as hostile to himself, and an open friend of his arch enemy Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. He suggested Mr. Lyle, Messrs. Gray Mackenzie's Bussorah agent, or Khalil Effendi, the vilayet Dragoman, as Umpire. Colonel Kemball informed me privately that he thought we should be accepting responsibility if we advised the Sheikh to accept Arbitrators or an Umpire of whom he disapproved, and suggested that the Sheikh's objections to Seyyed Ahmed might be well grounded, as Mubarek knew him better than we did.

On the 10th May the Vali told me he wished to meet the Sheikh's wishes as far as possible, in order not to delay the settlement, and stated that he had written to Mubarek, after consulting his representatives, and had proposed the Mufti as Umpire, and two Sheikhs of Zobeir in place of the persons eliminated.

On the 11th May I informed the Resident at Bushire of the change, and asked him to urge the Sheikh not to raise fresh obstacles, unless he had grave cause for contesting the eligibility of the persons now chosen. I observed that as the Vali had displayed goodwill, the Sheikh on his side should show compliance, and that his representatives were entitled to his confidence.

This correspondence was forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch No. 21, Confidential, of the 11th May. I did not inclose translations of the Sheikh's correspondence with the Vali, as I presumed these would reach your Excellency through the Government of India.

On the 18th May Abdul Wahab-el-Kartas, with whom I had discussed the arbitration, called on me, and stated he was submitting a joint proposal with Haji Mansur to the Sheikh, by which the nephews agreed to accept less than their rights. This, he said, would obviate the necessity of arbitration if accepted by Mubarek.

I replied that the Vali had already mentioned the subject to me, and that I saw no objection, provided it was a *bond fide* scheme. He explained the claims of the nephews, and I said I was glad to hear the views of the opposite side, but that, without consulting Mubarek's representatives, I could not possibly say whether they would prove acceptable to the Sheikh or not.

I then asked the Vali whether he knew the terms of the proposed scheme, and he admitted that he did not, but said that they were approved by Haji Mansur. I communicated with the latter, and asked for a statement of Mubarek's claim. But he said he could tell me nothing till he had heard from Mubarek himself, and although I sent him a copy of Kartas' exposé of the nephews' claims, he declined to criticize it for the present.

On the 24th May the Resident at Bushire telegraphed to me that Mubarek accepted the Court of Arbitration, and had signed and returned the reference to the Vali. The Sheikh stated that Yussuf-el-Ibrahim had returned to Dorah.

The Vali, whom I visited on the 25th May, said the papers had been signed, and

the representatives of the nephews and the Umpire accepted by the Sheikh, but they were waiting to hear the result of the *ex parte* proposals. I urged that it was better to strike while the iron was hot, and said I thought the arbitrators should lose no time in beginning their work. His Excellency, however, seemed to attach weight to the proffered settlement, and I raised no further objection. He denied all knowledge of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim's return. I called on Kartas, where I met Saoud, one of the nephews, and urged the former to use his influence to bring matters to a speedy conclusion. He assured me that Yussuf-el-Ibrahim was in the Kassim district near Boreyda. A report had reached me that the Sheikh had attacked Shammar Arabs belonging to the Amir to the south-west of Zobeir, and captured 800 camels. I communicated with the Vali, who confirmed it. His Excellency was greatly incensed at Mubarek's duplicity, and said that such action on his part was in strange opposition to his fair promises to live quietly and submit his differences to arbitration.

I was engaged for several days in making inquiries regarding the alleged reappearance of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. The Vali, at my request, summoned the Mudir of Zobeir to Bussorah, and I made independent inquiries at Fao, Dorah, and Zobeir, where I sent a special messenger. I could find no trace of him anywhere.

From the Resident's letter to me of the 1st June, it appeared that the *ex parte* proposal was less favourable to Mubarek than Kartas had represented.

On the 7th June I was informed that the Sheikh had declined the proffered settlement, and demanded the immediate release of his agent, Abdul Aziz-bin-Selim. He instructed his lawyer and Arbitrators not to begin the work till this had been effected.

I, accordingly, wrote to the Resident and explained that Mubarek was under no obligation to accept the scheme, but that his refusal of it need not interfere with the course of the arbitration proceedings. I asked him to urge the Sheikh not to go back on his word, and begged him, at the same time, to assure Mubarek that I had made independent inquiries regarding Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, and that he had not returned.

The present state of the case remains as reported to your Excellency in my telegram No. 37 and my despatch No. 26, Confidential, of the 8th June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 55.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, July 18, 1903.

KOWEIT. His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs as follows:—

"No. 59 of 27th July. Sheikh of Koweit is reported to be trying to restore the Sheikhs of the Aneyza, who have been taking refuge at Koweit after their expulsion by the Amir, and to have planned an expedition with this object. The inhabitants of Aneyza itself have accepted his advances. The enterprise is directed against the Amir. The Sheikhs will be accompanied by Abdul Aziz Bin Saud, who has been at Riadh collecting tribesmen, and who will march on Boreyda.

"(Sent to Bushire and Secretary of State for India.)"

I regard with apprehension the consequences which might possibly result from such restlessness of the Sheikh of Koweit as is reported above, and, as we have political reasons for preserving his independence, and have forbidden the Turks to attack or molest him, I submit for consideration the expediency of controlling his action by appointing a Resident at Koweit.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 23.)

Sir,

India Office, July 22, 1903.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Koweit

and his nephews, and reporting his language to the Grand Vizier on the question of the release from imprisonment of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Bussorah agent.

In reply, I am desired to say that his Lordship concurs in the Marquess of Lansdowne's proposal to approve the proceedings of Sir N. O'Connor, as reported in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 57.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 24.)

(B.) THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st July, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, July 23, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, July 21, 1903.*

KOWEIT. See Bussorah Consul's telegram No. 59. Please let me have your views on suggestion made by His Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, that as we have forbidden the Turks to interfere at Koweit, and desire to maintain Sheikh's independence, we should appoint a Resident at Koweit to keep Sheikh in order.

No. 58.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor (Received at Foreign Office, July 27.)

(No. 31.)

Sir,

Bussorah, June 30, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 49 and 51 of the 24th and 28th instant, in which I conveyed to your Excellency the information received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah in regard to the alleged return of Sheikh Yusuf-el-Ibrahim to these parts, I have the honour to report that my inquiries here do not corroborate these accounts.

I received two letters from Mr. McDouall, each giving a different version. On receipt of the first, I instructed my dragoman to convey the information to the Vali, warning him of the responsibility he incurred if he did not at once take steps to probe the matter to the bottom and arrest the man if found here, and to hint that the occurrence could not have taken place without his Excellency's knowledge.

The Vali said it was impossible for him to return without its coming to his ears, and protested that the tale was a pure invention, but promised, nevertheless, that to satisfy me he would make inquiries.

On the following day the vilayet dragoman brought me the Vali's assurances that Yusuf-el-Ibrahim was still at Boreyda, and had not been near Bussorah. He added that the story was put up by the Sheikh of Koweit.

I said Mubarek had nothing to do with it, as my information came from Mohammerah, and I remarked that it was peculiarly circumstantial and unlikely to be entirely false. Mubarek had insisted, ever since the middle of May, that Yusuf was in this neighbourhood, in spite of all assurances to the contrary, and, from my own inquiries at Dora last month, I learnt that the villagers there were expecting him. I added that I thought it extremely unlikely the Vali would not know of his return if it had really occurred, and I expressed the hope that the truth was not being concealed from me.

On receipt of Mr. McDouall's second letter, I wrote to the Vali, and received a reply categorically denying the truth of the report, and commenting on the discrepancy between my letter and the verbal account of the previous day. My dragoman also saw

the Vali at the Serai, and his Excellency even insinuated that the tale was a clumsy fabrication of my own and unworthy of my predecessors, who, the Vali said, managed these things better. He added that the Grand Vizier had telegraphed about it, and that he should flatly contradict the report.

On learning this, I wrote privately to the Vali, and explained that the information had been given him as received from Mohammerah, that there were two separate reports, and that they varied. I remarked that he might be easy as regards my making them up, as I was much too busy.

The Vali called on me the same afternoon, and I alluded to the subject in the course of our conversation, remarking that I was not in the habit of concocting news. He turned the matter off lightly, and I let it pass.

I sent a man to Zobeir to make further inquiries, and communicated with the Bessam family, one of whose members acts as the Amir of Nejd's Agent in Bussorah. I also wrote to Mr. McMeekin, the telegraph superintendent at Fao, asking him to ascertain whether Yusuf-el-Ibrahim had visited Dora. The result of these inquiries has been negative. The information I have received tends to confirm the account given by the authorities. Yusuf seems to have been at Boreyda during the past fortnight, where he is helping the Amir of Nejd to build a fort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 59.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 416.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 21, 1903.

IN a telegram No. 57 of the 16th instant, His Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah has informed me that he has received from Captain Hunt at Bushire the repetition of a telegram sent by the latter to the Resident at Shiraz and conveying a request from the Sheikh of Koweit for permission to visit his date gardens at Fao, where he professes to fear a recurrence of the difficulties of last year unless he can proceed there in person to inspect them and arrange for the disposal of the crop.

Captain Hunt did not consider the present moment as very opportune for the proposed visit, but was on the whole inclined to recommend that the Sheikh's request should be acceded to, and Mr. Crow, who was asked for his views by the Resident, informed me in a subsequent telegram, No. 58 of the 17th, that he had replied that he did not anticipate that the Sheikh would incur any risk, and saw no reason to interfere with the arrangement. Probably Mubarek would give notice of his visit to the Vali of Bussorah.

Without more detailed information of the actual situation at Koweit than can be conveyed by telegraph, I scarcely felt competent to offer an opinion as to the expediency of allowing the Sheikh to go to Fao, and I have, therefore, not thought it necessary to reply to Mr. Crow. But it occurs to me that if we decline to accede to Mubarek's request, he would be apt to throw on the Resident at Bushire the responsibility for any mishap in connection with his date gardens; on the other hand, there is danger of his seizing the opportunity to intrigue with the Turks, but this he can probably do in any case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 60.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 202.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 28, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 344 of the 16th ultimo relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, and reporting

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your language to the Grand Vizier on the question of the release from imprisonment of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Bussorah agent.

Your Excellency's proceedings, as reported in your despatch, are approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 61.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st July, relative to the proposed appointment of a Resident at Koweit.

India Office, August 1, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 31, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 21st July. Proposal to appoint Resident at Koweit. I have consulted Political Resident in Persian Gulf who replies:—

"I understand that proposal is for the appointment of a British officer, in which case it is, in my opinion, likely to impose upon us an inconvenient responsibility. Frequent complaints have been made by the Sheikh of raids by Nejd on his territory and tribes, and he has not been able to obtain protection or redress from Turkey. I presume that our only concern is the maintenance of Koweit independence by naval power, and it seems to me that our undertaking to keep Sheikh in order must involve our responsibility for affording him redress in case of internal raids. In existing circumstances, he has to take his own measures to protect himself, and even if he goes so far as to support indirectly those of his friends who are now revolting against the Amir of Nejd, I do not see that we can or need object, nor that Turkey has any grounds for objection, as she has never, to the best of my knowledge, attempted, or even desired, to interfere between the Wahabis and the Amir of Nejd. At the same time, with a view to assisting trade and procuring more accurate information of the progress of events, it is desirable that we should have more competent representation at Koweit. For this purpose, our Consul at Mohammerah might be given the additional charge of Koweit, in respect to which he would be placed under the orders of the Resident in the Persian Gulf, who could place the 'Lawrence' at his disposal, to enable him to visit Koweit occasionally, if no gun-boat was available."

Admitting the force of these representations, I consider that, for the following reasons, any probable disadvantages would be outweighed by the advantages of having a British Officer at Koweit:—

First, the appointment would be substantial evidence that we intended to preserve and utilize the privileges we already enjoy; secondly, it should give us the means of gradually acquiring more reliable information as to real state of affairs in the interior of Arabia, where tribal politics may easily give rise to difficult questions; thirdly, we should be in a better position to watch Turkish proceedings in the neighbourhood of Koweit; and, lastly, we should strengthen our right to controlling voice in ultimate destination of Bagdad Railway.

It still appears to us that our proposals to place Mohammerah and Koweit under single Indian officer afford most economical solution, and we do not understand reasons for their recent rejection by His Majesty's Government. If double jurisdiction is considered objectionable, we are in favour of course proposed by Sir N. O'Connor, with the proviso that the connection between Koweit and Bussorah is in no way strengthened or recognized.

No. 62.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 28th May, relative to the Koweit Arbitration Case.

India Office, August 1, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, May 28, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with my telegram, dated the 5th May, on the subject of the Arbitration between Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit and his nephews with respect to the family estates situated within Turkish territory.

The Sheikh's objections to the Umpire and two of the Arbitrators selected by his nephews having been considered by the Wali of Bussorah, his Excellency arranged that another Umpire should be appointed, and two other Arbitrators substituted for those objected to by Sheikh Mubarak.

I have now received a letter from the Sheikh informing me that he agrees to the Tribunal as now constituted, and has signed and returned to the Wali the document by which he agrees to refer the case to arbitration.

I have informed His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah by telegram.

2. Sheikh Mubarak has further informed me that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, has returned to Dorah. This report, if true, is somewhat disquieting at the present time, when a settlement of the dispute between the Sheikh and his nephews seems possible.

I have informed Mr. Crow of what I have heard, but he, of course, will have received earlier information on the subject if the news is true.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Mr. Crow, Acting Consul at Bussorah, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

June 15, 1903.

INFORMATION has reached me that the Sheikh of Koweit has sent a Petition to Yildiz, begging for the release of his Agent, and stating that the Arbitration is progressing favourably.

As reported in my telegram No. 37, negotiations are at a standstill, as the Sheikh has instructed his Representatives not to act until his Agent is released, in order that he can take charge of his papers. The Sheikh thoroughly distrusts the Wali, and I have, therefore, proposed to the latter that the papers should be intrusted to me. If you approve, please telegraph, and I will ask the Resident in the Persian Gulf to arrange.

May I hold out any hope to the Sheikh of Koweit in regard to the release of his Agent? The Wali says that, until the Arbitration is finished, he cannot move in the matter.

(Sent to Colonel Kemball.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Mr. Crow, Acting Consul at Bussorah, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Bussorah, June 18, 1903.

I HAVE sent the following telegram, dated the 16th June, to the British Ambassador at Constantinople, and have repeated it to the Resident at Bushire:—

"I sent for the Sheikh's lawyer yesterday. He says that the Sheikh is ready to produce all the documents, and will keep back nothing. He begged for assistance in effecting the release of his Agent. The Sheikh's Petition was telegraphed too much in Arabic.

"I replied that it was a matter for the Sultan's clemency, and that I could hold out no hope of anything being done until the Arbitration was finished, but that I would inform your Excellency of the Sheikh's appeal.

"Hadimansur offered himself to the Vali as security for the Sheikh's good faith in the matter of the Arbitration, if the Vali would exert himself to obtain the immediate release of his Agent. The Vali declined the offer. If the Agent is liberated, the Turks seem to be afraid that the Sheikh will not settle his differences with nephews."

I have also telegraphed as follows, under date the 17th June, to the Embassy at Constantinople, repeating it to Colonel Kemball:—

"If the Petition of the Sheikh of Koweit is referred to the Vali the latter will, no doubt, instance the Sheikh's alleged attack of Shamar Arabs at Gabishiye, near Zobeyr, towards the end of May, as a proof of the little faith which can be placed in the Sheikh's promises. I reported the attack in my despatch No. 26 of the 8th June, but have no corroborative evidence from Bushire in regard to it, and I am sceptical.

"Mr. Lyle went to Koweit on Monday, and I asked him to make independent inquiries, and report the result.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Shiraz, June 20, 1903.

KOWEIT Arbitration:

Following two telegrams from Consul, Bussorah:—

"Ambassador is urging Grand Vizier to arrange for release of Sheikh's Agent. His Excellency wishes you to know, as you may think it advisable [to] inform Sheikh."

"Can you arrange for Sheikh of Koweit to intrust his papers in regard to Arbitration to me? Ambassador sees no objection to this. It may relieve Sheikh's anxiety for their safety, and strengthen my hands in the matter of the supervision."

I see no objection in informing Sheikh [that] Ambassador is trying to obtain release of Agent. With regard to papers I might ascertain Sheikh's views, and, if he agrees, arrange for their transmission to Consul, at the same time urging Sheikh not to put further difficulties in the way of Arbitration.

Please telegraph if you agree.

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

Government of India to Colonel Kemball.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, June 25, 1903.

YOUR telegram 20th June, Koweit. No objection to action proposed.

No. 63.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, August 5, 1903.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* reporting that the Sheikh of Koweit has asked for permission to visit his property at Fao during the approaching date season, and discussing the advisability of allowing him to do so.

Lord G. Hamilton will recollect that the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf was authorized, on the 17th February, 1899, immediately after the conclusion of the Koweit Agreement, to inform the Sheikh that His Majesty's Government would "do what they can to protect him and his brothers in the matter of their estates near Fao."

In view of this assurance, Lord Lansdowne is disposed to agree with Sir N. O'Connor in thinking that, if His Majesty's Government were to prevent Sheikh Mubarek from visiting Fao, they might be forced to assume the responsibility for any difficulties which may arise in respect of his property in those regions.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Lord George Hamilton's observations on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 8th August, relative to the proposed visit of the Sheikh of Koweit to his property near Fao.

India Office, August 12, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 8, 1903.

SIR N. O'CONOR reports, and is disposed to assent to, Sheikh of Koweit's request, communicated to him through Bushire and Bussorah, for permission to visit his Fao property. Please let me know your views as soon as possible.

No. 65.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, August 13, 1903.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, in which he advocates the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit, proposed by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, unless the alternative proposal of the Government of India be accepted, that an officer of the Indian Service should be appointed Consul at Mohammerah, who should also have Koweit under his superintendence and be provided with a vessel for the purpose of making frequent visits to that place.

As the Secretary of State for India is aware, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the Consul at Mohammerah should devote his attention to the very important questions

of trade and roads in that locality and the surrounding districts. It appears to Lord Lansdowne to be undesirable that he should be taken away from these duties for the purpose of dealing with an entirely different class of questions connected with Turkish Arabia. His Lordship is unable to see that there is any force in the argument advanced by the Viceroy that visits to Koweit by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah would strengthen and recognize the connection between that vilayet and Koweit. The Consul is at the present moment the necessary intermediary between the Sheikh and the Vali in the many questions which arise as to the Sheikh's property, and it might equally be argued that visits by His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire to Bahrein indicate a connection between the latter island and Persia.

Lord Lansdowne does not, however, wish to press the proposal, suggested originally by the Secretary of State for India, that the British Consul at Bussorah should be placed in regular superintendence over Koweit.

The present system under which His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire, or one of his officers, is the ordinary means of communicating with the Sheikh has, on the whole, worked well. On the other hand, the appointment of a British officer to reside at Koweit permanently could scarcely be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have hitherto laid so much stress in these discussions with the Porte, and Lord Lansdowne would be averse to such a measure unless the necessity for it is clearly apparent. If it should be considered expedient to resort to it, it would probably be best that the officer selected should at first visit Koweit temporarily from Bushire, and repeat his visits at intervals until his residence became practically permanent.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 66.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 14.)

Sir,

India Office, August 13, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 112 of the 18th ultimo, and to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, forwarding a copy of a telegram to the Viceroy on the subject of the expediency of appointing a British Resident to Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st July, 1903, reporting the views of the Resident in the Persian Gulf and of the Government of India upon the proposal.*

As to the Viceroy's reference to the proposal to place Koweit under the charge of the Consul at Mohammerah, it appears to Lord George Hamilton that, apart from the reasons which led to the recent decision to retain Mr. McDouall in that post, there are objections to entrusting our relations with the Sheikh of Koweit to a Consular officer residing in Persian territory. Moreover, his Lordship is unable to understand in what respect such an arrangement would be preferable to that which at present exists, by which Koweit is under the general superintendence of the Consul-General at Bushire, who is also Political Resident for the whole of the Persian Gulf, and who has a steam-ship at his disposal for the purpose of visiting the ports under his charge when it is necessary to do so.

With regard to the suggested appointment of a British officer to reside in Koweit, it appears to Lord George Hamilton that such a step would scarcely be in harmony with the admissions which have repeatedly been made by His Majesty's Government that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire. This point, however, is one pre-eminently for the Foreign Office to consider, and, apart from this, his Lordship is inclined to attach more weight to the reasons given by the Viceroy in favour of the appointment than to those urged against it by Colonel Kemball. As an alternative he would suggest that it will be sufficient for the present to instruct the Consul-General at Bushire to depute an officer to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such period as may be desirable. Business connected with the Sheikh's relations with Turkish officials at Bussorah would, as at present, be conducted through His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

* Not printed.

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, with reference to Foreign Office letter of the 5th instant, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 13th August, on the subject of the Sheikh of Koweit and his property near Fao.

India Office, August 13, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

August 13, 1903.

(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your telegram, about Koweit, of the 8th instant: I have consulted Kemball, who replies that, in his opinion, there is no objection to the Sheikh paying a visit to his possessions near Fao. I concur in this view. Kemball reports that, writing last month, Mubarak mentioned to him his wish to go to Fao for the purpose of arranging for the annual sale of his crops and of examining improvements, and asked for leave to do so. Kemball thought the proposal unobjectionable and, having consulted the Consul at Bussorah, replied to Mubarak to that effect, but added that he presumed the Bussorah Vali had been duly informed by the Sheikh of his intention.

No. 68.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 17.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, July 18, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to submit a Report on the dispute regarding the appropriation of real property, situated in Turkey, between the members of the Sabah family of Koweit, which has been referred to arbitration here. My information is the outcome of conversations on the subject with Haji Mansur, the Sheikh of Koweit's principal Arbitrator; Abdul Hamid Effendi, Mubarek's lawyer; and Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas, who stands *in loco parentis* to the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews.

The property in dispute consists of date gardens at Fao and Sofieh, on the Shatt-el-Arab, and other landed property at Kut-i-Zeyn, an island in the Shatt near Mohammerah, and Gherdilan and Ajerawiye, on the borders of the Shatt.

There seems to be no difference of opinion as regards Kut-i-Zeyn, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiye. These properties stand in the name of Mohamed-es-Sabah, Mubarek's deceased brother, and are to be apportioned equally between Mubarek and the descendants of Mohamed and Jerrah; but Mubarek's mother is entitled to one-sixth of the share of Mohamed and Jerrah. The division would, therefore, be: one-third to Mubarek, one-fourth to the heirs of Mohamed-es-Sabah, one-fourth to the heirs of Jerrah-es-Sabah, and one-sixth to Mubarek's mother.

As regards Fao and Sofieh, the parties are at variance. According to Mubarek's contention, the Fao property only belonged to his grandfather Jaber, and is to be divided among the latter's descendants; but Ali, the son of Jaber, having disposed of his share to Daij, his collateral, whose descendants Mubarek now represents, and Ali's mother, the wife of Jaber, having been divorced and her three daughters forfeiting thereby all claim to inheritance, the portion of this estate accruing to Mubarek and the persons he represents is considerably larger than the opposite side are prepared to admit. According to the Sheikh's somewhat complicated computation, as given me by his lawyer, Fao is divided into 45 *höz* (a local land measure); 12 belong to Daij, deceased, whom Mubarek represents; 2 are divided in equal shares between Mubarek and the children of his brother Mohamed, deceased; 12 are divided among all the descendants of their grandfather and great-grandfather Jaber, in ratios of two-fifths to the children of Mohamed and Jerrah, deceased, and three-fifths to Mubarek and the persons he represents; and of the remaining

19, one-fifth falls to the children of Mohamed and Jerrah, deceased, and four-fifths to Mubarek. The Sofieh property, according to the Sheikh's contention, belonged to his father Sabah, and is to be appropriated in ratios of two-fifths to the heirs of Mohamed and Jarreh and three-fifths to himself and the persons he represents. Reduced to ordinals of 100, Mubarek claims that, of Jaber's property, his side are entitled to $\frac{62}{100}$ and the other side $\frac{38}{100}$; and of Sabah's property, $\frac{75}{100}$ belong to his side and $\frac{25}{100}$ to the other.

The contention of the nephews and their party is, briefly, that both Fao and Sofieh belonged to Jaber, and are inherited by his three sons, Ali, Daij, and Sabah, and their descendants in equal shares, and they claim, accordingly, $\frac{35}{100}$ of both these properties; that Ali's mother, the wife of Jaber, was never divorced, and that her three daughters and their descendants are entitled to her inheritance; that the sons of Mohamed-es-Sabah inherit from Ali-el-Jaber, in right of their mother, one of Ali's daughters; that the children of Jerrah also inherit from Ali, in right of their mother, another of Ali's daughters; that the descendants of Mohamed and Jerrah have no share in Daij's inheritance; that Ali-el-Jaber did not dispose of his share to Daij, and that the portion appropriated to the latter is, therefore, not as large as Mubarek asserts; that the children of Mohamed and Jerrah inherit from Sabah's share, in right of their respective fathers, Sabah's sons.

I am informed by Haji Mansur that Mubarek's claim on the Fao and Sofieh estates, as stated above, is legally untenable, these properties having been both bequeathed by Jaber. By the Sher' law, the three sons of Jaber and their descendants inherit in equal shares, if there is nothing to prove the conveyance of Ali-el-Jaber's share to Daij or the divorce of Ali's mother. No document has been produced in support of Mubarek's contention, and it is not believed that any such document exists. It is suspected, however, that a deed of more than doubtful legality was executed by Mubarek's order in his own favour after the assassination of his brother Mohamed-es-Sabah. Mubarek vouchsafes no answer to the very pertinent inquiries made by Haji Mansur on this crucial point, and, in fact, begs the question altogether.

If the claims of the parties as they now stand were submitted to arbitration on a legal basis, there is, I am informed by Mubarek's own Arbitrator, no doubt that the Sheikh's contention would be rebutted, and the award in the Fao and Sofieh dispute would be unequivocally in favour of the nephews. It does not seem, however, to be the Sheikh's intention to give the Arbitrators full powers in the matter, as may be inferred from the translation of the Sheikh's own letter, inclosed. Nor would the Arbitrators, his friends, undertake the unwelcome task of giving a decision wholly adverse to Mubarek. Haji Mansur told me that, as far as he was concerned, he would certainly withdraw from the affair altogether if the Sheikh refused to come to a friendly understanding. So much for the impartiality of the proceedings. A Court of Arbitration has, indeed, been constituted according to the Irade, and has been nominally accepted by the parties, but the purpose of all concerned is rather to effect an amicable compromise, in which both sides concur, and which the Arbitrators will take the necessary steps to render binding.

With this object in view, Haji Mansur is, on the one hand, corresponding directly with Mubarek, and, on the other, consulting the nephews in conjunction with Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas. It must be borne in mind that the Sheikh has effectively checked all progress in the matter of arbitration pure and simple, as at first arranged, by writing to each of his representatives in turn, and forbidding them to act until Abdul Aziz Bin Salemel-Bader, his agent, is released from prison. On the other hand, the Sheikh has informed the British Resident at Bushire that he has adopted this course solely because he fears the hostile influence of the Vali on his representatives, and hopes to delay proceedings till the Vali of Bussorah, Mustapha Nouri Pasha, is changed. The Vali, no doubt, does exercise his influence to the prejudice of Mubarek's interests by giving directions to the Arbitrators, but this is difficult to prevent in Turkey, where all Ottoman subjects stand in childish awe of the authorities, and where arbitrary proceedings and unscrupulous interference by Government officials in the private concerns of the individual are the acknowledged order of the day. Moreover, Mubarek is unwilling to increase the hostility of the Vali by favouring me with his full confidence, and so placing in my hands a weapon with which to protect him. However, the main object being to compromise the differences between the parties, the Sheikh's veto is no bar to a friendly understanding, and this will, no doubt, appeal more to the primitive sense of justice of a Bedouin Arab than any hard-and-fast decision delivered after due and legal consideration of the points in dispute.

I have received a letter from the Sheikh of Koweit, dated the 6th July, forwarding me a copy of his reply of the same date to a communication addressed to him by Haji Mansur on the 25th June. I annex a translation of the inclosure, as it is of interest and shows the feelings by which Mubarek is actuated. I have discussed its contents with Haji Mansur, and have replied to it through the Resident of Bushire. In this letter the

Sheikh agrees to the division of Kut-i-Zeyn, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiye, as already stated. "Two-thirds less a sixth" means that two-thirds go to the nephews and those they represent, less one-sixth to Mubarek's mother.

The Sheikh remarks that Haji Mansur would understand the appropriation of the Fao shares and those of Sofieh, on the lines he indicates, if he saw the papers. He has been repeatedly asked to produce the document on which he bases his claim, but continues to withhold it, if, indeed, it is in existence, which seems doubtful, as it is a matter of primary importance to him to show it, and no copy of it has been furnished among the papers submitted to the Arbitrators. As regards Yussuf Ibrahim, I think the Sheikh may rest assured that he will keep at a distance. The authorities have no desire to see him, and will oppose his return.

The proposal that the nephews should accept an equivalent from the Sheikh's private property at Dowasir, in exchange for their shares in Fao, has been submitted to them, and they agree to Mubarek's terms. But, here again, the question of equivalent turns on the appropriation of the Fao shares. If Mubarek's claim to the lion's portion of Fao can be legally supported by documentary evidence—that is, if he can prove that Ali-el-Jaber disposed of his share to Daij, and that, consequently, his share is to be added to the Sheikh's own share as Daij's representative, and if he can prove the divorce of Ali-el-Jaber's mother, and her children do not inherit—then the equivalent will naturally be less than the nephews anticipate. If, on the other hand, the contention of the opposite side is maintained, namely, that Fao and Sofieh are, in their entirety, the lawful inheritance of all the descendants of Jaber in equal shares, as would be the case according to the Sher' law, unless evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, and if the divorce of Ali-el-Jaber's mother—a difficult question to elucidate in a Bedouin country, where the parties are dead—remains unproved, the equivalent will be considerably more than Mubarek is at present inclined to give.

Haji Mansur has replied to this letter, and proposed to the Sheikh that the two properties should be valued, and that he should assign 25 per cent. of their worth to his nephews and those they represent.

It remains to be seen what answer the Sheikh will send to this proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Sheikh of Koweit to Mr. Crow.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

July 6, 1903.

FORWARDS copy of letter addressed by the Sheikh of Koweit to Haji Mansur Salman regarding the division of his property and his differences with his nephews.

To Haji Mansur Salman.

(After compliments.)

11 Rebbi-es-Sani (July 6, 1903).

I have received your letter of 30 Rebbi-ul-Owwel (25th June, 1903), in which you ask me to state what I claim. You know, my brother, that we have never stopped from the beginning, and that we desire the boy's comfort, but they are obstinate, and intrigue under the guidance of that wicked man, Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. Oh! brother, this is neither just nor right. I obey and put up with all the harm they do. They get others to help them, and we and our property are treated with contumely.

This state of things is displeasing to any one who is true to his nation and Government. But what can we say? We do not regret the services we have rendered in our own body and the money we have spent; but we deplore this state of things. But, my brother, you say you know about Zeyn, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiye, two-thirds less one-sixth, but you do not understand about Fao and Sofieh. Of course, if you saw the papers you would understand. And you ask me to tell you what I want, and what I purpose. My purpose is honesty and fairness and peace for the family of Sabah. Primarily, that guilty man Yussuf-el-Ibrahim must be kept away from the Sabah property and from this matter. As regards Sofieh, they have a share in it, and we will give them the whole of it in exchange for their share in the Fao property.

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Oh! you seven Arbitrators! if you don't think Sofieh is enough, I have land at Dowasir, which belongs entirely to me. It is better than Fao and more productive, and I will give them more than this equivalent of their shares in Fao. I want to end the dispute, and I will give them an equivalent in date gardens for their shares of Fao, according to the papers, which will be more productive than Fao, in order that Sabah and Saoud and the people they represent may sever all connection with Fao, for they do not behave as my sons, but as the sons of that guilty man Yussuf-el-Ibrahim.

If they have anything to do with Fao, Dora is very near it, and it will only serve to make them more corrupt. We cannot put up with the harm of Dora. They will draw assistance from this source of evil. Be assured, if they have anything, to do with Fao, we shall never come to an arrangement.

Don't blame us if we dislike it. May God preserve you.

(Signed) MUBAREK-ES-SABAH.

No. 69.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 17.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, July 20, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 59 of the 17th July, I have received the following information in regard to the Sheikh of Koweit's dealings with the Aneyza tribe:—

Certain Sheikhs of Aneyza, who were expelled by Ibn Reshid when he occupied the district, took refuge with Mubarek at Koweit. In the early part of July Mubarek sent an emissary, named Abd-el-Ali, to Aneyza to confer with the notables. He proposed to reinstate their former Sheikhs, and informed them that he would employ force if they resisted. The notables agreed, and Abd-el-Ali then proceeded to Shaggera to see Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, who has collected a number of the tribesmen round Riad and proposes to attack Boreyda. Ibn Reshid and Yussuf-el-Ibrahim are said to be at Boreyda, and are constructing a fort. The former Sheikhs of Aneyza are leaving Koweit *en route* for Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud's head-quarters, and will join him in the expedition.

The Amir's force has been much weakened by repeated repulses and unsuccessful forays, and it is not believed that he can offer serious resistance. A convoy of arms dispatched to Yussuf-el-Ibrahim from El Katr has been intercepted by Mohamed, brother of Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, at El Sirr, some two days' distance from Boreyda. It is said he captured ten loads. In the middle of June the same Mohamed proceeded from Riad to within a day's distance of Boreyda and plundered the Bedouins belonging to Ibn Reshid.

His Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Mohammerah reports that, according to information he has received, Yussuf-el-Ibrahim lately sent some mounted men to Dora with instructions to Salih-el-Ibrahim, his kinsman, to collect a force. The latter collected 150 men, but their destination is unknown.

I understand that a regular correspondence is kept up between the Nahib's family at Bussorah and Yussuf-el-Ibrahim at Boreyda. The latter is also in communication with Mollah Hamza, the Sheikh of Mohammerah's agent here, and Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 459. Secret.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 10, 1903.

WITH reference to the Secret telegram from the Government of India to Lord George Hamilton of the 31st July last, I beg to say that I entirely disagree with Major Kemball's theory that while affording the Sheikh of Koweit naval protection as against the Ottoman Government, we are under no obligation to interfere with any aggressive or hostile proceedings which he may take against a tributary of Turkey such as the Emir of Nejd. As a matter of fact the Porte have on more than one

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occasion asked that the influence of His Majesty's Government may be used to prevent the Sheikh from marauding or attacking his neighbours. The immunity from Turkish aggression which His Majesty's Government has desired to secure to him seems to me to carry with it the responsibility of preventing him, as far as lies in our power, from undertaking offensive operations against chieftains or tribes assumed to be under the suzerainty of Turkey.

The arguments in favour of the appointment of a Resident at Koweit are so clearly set forth in the Viceroy's telegram that I feel there is no necessity to make further remarks, except to express the hope that the proposal may be favourably entertained by His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 71.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 466.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 10, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Damascus, stating that he has received a request from a Mesopotamian Sheikh for his protection in favour of some merchants from Koweit, who were expected to arrive in Damascus, and some of whom had last year been unjustly imprisoned by the Turkish authorities.

Considering the peculiar position of Koweit at the present moment, I am in some doubt as to the instructions I should send to Mr. Monahan. It seems to me that it would not be easy to justify the extension of Consular protection to Koweitlis as against the Turkish authorities, and such a course would probably lead to many difficulties; but, on the other hand, I hesitate to meet the application made on behalf of these merchants with too blunt a refusal.

I should therefore be glad if your Lordship would favour me with your instructions on the point.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 62. Confidential.)

Sir,

Damascus, July 22, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that a Mesopotamian Sheikh of some importance called on me a few days ago and asked, confidentially, whether I would protect friends of his, merchants from Koweit on the Persian Gulf, who were expected here this year, as some of the same people were unjustly imprisoned by the Turkish authorities in Damascus. I told him that I had received no official instructions to protect any inhabitants of Koweit. I understand that the Turkish authorities would certainly not admit my right to protect them, and I would respectfully solicit your Excellency's instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 72.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 234. Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1903.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 459, Secret, of the 10th instant, advocating the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.

I have already been in communication with the Secretary of State for India in regard to the questions raised in the telegram from the Government of India of the 31st July, to which your Excellency refers, and I transmit for your information copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject.*

Your Excellency will observe that both Lord G. Hamilton and myself have, after careful consideration, arrived at the conclusion that, notwithstanding the various arguments which have been urged in favour of the proposal to appoint a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, such a course would scarcely be in harmony with the admission which has repeatedly been made by His Majesty's Government that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire, and could, indeed, hardly be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have laid so much stress in their previous discussions on the subject.

I concur in your Excellency's opinion that His Majesty's Government may not infrequently find themselves called upon to exercise their influence in restraining the Sheikh from attacking his Arab neighbours, as well as in protecting him from aggression at the hands of the Turkish Government. But that influence has upon more than one occasion been so exercised under existing conditions, and a perusal of the printed confidential correspondence, during the months of September and October 1901 in particular, shows that the mediation of the Political Resident and of British Naval officers in the Persian Gulf was successfully employed at a time of serious inter-tribal disturbance, and that it was received by the Turkish Government with satisfaction.

The conclusion of the hostilities then in progress between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Amir of Nejd was followed by an amicable understanding with the Turkish Government, recorded in my note to Anthopoulos Pasha of the 11th September, 1901, which has since that date formed the basis of the relations between the two Governments, and the adoption of the present proposal might seriously impair its successful continuance.

His Majesty's Government are therefore of opinion that it will be best, for the present at least, to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, and that it will be sufficient that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. For the reasons stated in the correspondence inclosed in this despatch they are also of opinion that the attention of His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah will be more profitably directed to the very important questions in that locality, and they consider that business connected with the relations of the Sheikh with Turkish officials at Bussorah should be conducted as heretofore through His Majesty's Consul at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSLOWNE.

No. 73.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† discussing the course which His Majesty's Acting Consul at Damascus should be instructed to pursue with regard to an application recently made to him to grant protection to some Arab merchants of Koweit.

I am to inclose the draft of a despatch, which, with Lord G. Hamilton's concurrence, Lord Lansdowne proposes to address to Sir N. O'Connor in reply.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

* Nos. 65 and 66.

† No. 71.

‡ See No. 78.

No. 74.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 16th and 30th July, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, August 20, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India.

Bushire, June 19, 1903.

IN continuation of this office letter, dated the 29th May, 1903, regarding Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter which I have received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah. This office letter, dated the 1st June, quoted by Mr. Crow, gave cover to two letters from Sheikh Mubarek, positively stating that Yusuf had returned to Dawra.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Consul Crow to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Bussorah, June 8, 1903.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 1st June, and the letters from the Sheikh of Koweit asserting that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim had reappeared here, I have made independent inquiries myself at Fao and Zobeir, and am quite sure that he has visited neither of these places.

His relative, Saleh-el-Ibrahim, returned lately from Mecca, and proceeded from Bussorah to Fao in Yusuf's launch a few days ago, and his name may have been confused with that of Yusuf.

It would, perhaps, be advisable to bring the result of my investigation to the knowledge of the Sheikh of Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 74.

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India.

Bushire, July 2, 1903.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter dated the 19th June, 1903, regarding the movements of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, I have the honour to inform you that I have received authentic information from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah that Yusuf arrived at Dawra on the 15th June, and remained there for four days, during which he corresponded with certain of his adherents in Koweit, and left again on the fifth day for Zubeir.

Inclosure 4 in No. 74.

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India.

Bushire, July 9, 1903.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the telegrams which have been sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, regarding Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Inclosure 5 in No. 74.

Telegrams from Consul Crow, Bussorah, to Sir N. O'Connor.

(1) No. 49, dated the 24th June, 1903—

I AM informed by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah that Yusuf-el-Ibrahim passed Bussorah five days ago and went to Mohammerah, having travelled by Turkish steamer from Bagdad. Mulla Hamza is reported to have met him and travelled to Mohammerah with him. Sheikh Khazal is said to have received him and promised to observe secrecy. The story was given to the Vice-Consul by a friend or one of those present at the interview with the Sheikh of Mohammerah.

I have warned the Wali that he will incur grave responsibility if he fails to arrest him, and hinted that he could not have arrived without his knowledge. The Wali says the information is quite incorrect.

(2) No. 51, dated 28th June, 1903—

I AM informed by the Vice-Consul at Mohammerah that Yusuf-el-Ibrahim did not come by way of Bagdad, but travelled direct from Zubeir to Dawra, where he arrived on the 15th June. He stayed in his house four days, where his friends visited him, and sent letters to Koweit by two peasants whose names are known. He returned afterwards to Zubeir disguised as a Turk.

I wrote to the Wali conveying this information. He absolutely denies it, and even hints that I made it up, and that the story is lame. The Grand Vizier will be informed accordingly.

I fear it is too late to intercept the correspondence with Koweit, but I have asked the Resident at Bushire to do what he can. My inquiries here give negative results. Whether the report is true or not the authorities are scared, and the effect will be salutary. It is hard to prove their connivance.

Inclosure 6 in No. 74.

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India.

Bushire, July 9, 1903.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with this office letter dated the 29th May last, and in continuation of Mr. Crow's telegram, dated the 15th June, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the telegram which has been sent to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, regarding Abdul Aziz, Agent of the Chief of Koweit.

Inclosure 7 in No. 74.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.

Bussorah, June 23, 1903.

(Telegraphic.)

COURT of Cassation has, I am told, confirmed the sentence passed on the Sheikh of Koweit's Bussorah Agent. The papers have been sent to the Court of Appeal at Bagdad for execution. The Public Prosecutor has approached the Ministry of Justice on the subject, and inquired in what fortress Abdul Aziz is to be confined.

Inclosure 8 in No. 74.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Shiraz, July 18, 1903.

(Telegraphic.)

CROW'S telegram of yesterday. I have not received confirmation of report. It is of great importance to Mubarek to have his friends at Aneyza, and he would, I believe, indirectly support expedition, though it is doubtful whether he is planning it. It does not appear that action on our part is called for.

Inclosure 9 in No. 74.

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Simla, July 25, 1903.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram, the 18th July. Koweit. You should remind Sheikh, if necessary, of previous advice against encouraging any hostile action likely to involve him in difficulties with Nejd or with Turks. See my separate telegram about our representation at Koweit.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 22.)

India Office, August 21, 1903.

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, asking for his Lordship's observations on the subject of the proposed visit of Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit to his possessions near Fao.

In reply, I am to say that, after consulting the Government of India, whose views were expressed in the Viceroy's telegram of the 13th instant, copy of which was forwarded to the Foreign Office on the same day, Lord George Hamilton sees no objection to the Sheikh's proposal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) (For the Under-Secretary of State)
COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

No. 76.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st August, relative to the proposed appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.

India Office, August 27, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 26, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 31st July regarding Koweit.

On the whole His Majesty's Government consider that proposal to appoint a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit could not but be regarded as departure, only to be justified by clear necessity, from the *status quo* which they have insisted upon so strongly in their discussions with Turkish Government. Proposal to take Consul at Mohammerah away from his commercial duties in Persia in order to deal with questions of an entirely different class connected with Turkish Arabia is also one to which Foreign Office object. It is considered that the existing system, under which the ordinary channel of communication with Koweit is the Resident in Persian Gulf, or one of his subordinates, works well on the whole. Closer touch with Koweit could, if found necessary hereafter, be gradually established by repeating at intervals temporary visits of selected officer until his residence became practically permanent.

No. 77.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 239.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1903.

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for India your Excellency's despatch No. 416 of the 31st July, reporting a request of the Sheikh of Koweit to be allowed to visit his property at Fao during the date season.

I transmit, for your information, copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject.*

Your Excellency will observe that His Majesty's Government see no objection to the proposed visit, and that the Sheikh has been informed accordingly by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 78.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 246.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 2, 1903.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 466 of the 11th instant, reporting an application recently made to the Acting British Consul at Damascus to grant protection to some Arab merchants of Koweit, and requesting instructions as to the course which Mr. Monahan should be directed to pursue.

Your Excellency will find in the Confidential correspondence regarding Koweit, part 2, pp. 56, 57, an account of a similar question which arose in November 1900 in connection with the trial of a native of Koweit who was suspected of smuggling arms. His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire was informed on that occasion that, as the district had never been placed under British protection, His Majesty's Government could not claim natives of Koweit as British-protected persons, nor would they be justifiable by British Consular Tribunals in Persia.

The same argument would appear to be applicable to the present case, and your Excellency should instruct Mr. Monahan to be careful to abstain from giving any formal promise of British protection. At the same time, there seems to be no objection to his holding out a hope that his good offices would be exercised unofficially on behalf of these merchants in the event of their experiencing any unjust treatment at the hands of the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

* Nos. 63, 67, and 75.

No. 79.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 3.)**India Office, September 2, 1903.*

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th August, inclosing the draft of a despatch which Lord Lansdowne proposes to address to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with regard to an application recently made to His Majesty's Acting Consul at Damascus for the grant of protection to some Arab merchants of Koweit.

In reply, I am to say that Lord George Hamilton concurs in the terms of the draft despatch, which is herewith returned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 80.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, September 8.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Sir,

*August
Bussorah, September 11, 1903.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that the Sheikh of Koweit has sent me a copy of his letter to Haji Mansur, in reply to the latter's proposal mentioned in my despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 18th July last to your Excellency, in regard to the property settlement.

In this letter Mubarek consents to abandon one-quarter of Fao and one-quarter of Sofien, but, as he reserves the whole of Fao for himself, he will give his nephews the remainder of Sofien, Zeyn, Ajerawine, and Gherditan as the equivalent of the former, after measurement and valuation. Haji Mansur also proposed that the Sheikh should pay £ T. 2,000 as the balance due to the other side on the income from the estates for the past year. In reply to this, Mubarek states that the balance due to them is small, as he has already paid sums on account and settled their father's debts. He says he has paid £ T. 3,330, and declines to give them any more. He makes this arrangement conditional on a settlement of all outstanding pecuniary questions between himself and the opposite side, in which he includes Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. These questions refer to (a) his house at Zeyn and its appurtenances, which he values at krs. 120,000 (£ T. 2,000), and says he built with his own money; (b) the repayment by his nephews of this year's land tax, advanced by him on property assigned to them; (c) deposits and advances with Yusuf Ibrahim in the latter's house of business at Bombay, according to a document drawn up by Yusuf, said to be in the hands of Mubarek's agent here.

On receipt of this letter I communicated with Haji Mansur, and learnt that the opposite party were much pleased at Mubarek's compliance. They asked for my help to effect a settlement. I informed Haji Mansur that I was ready to advise Mubarek to accept any fair arrangement, but I thought his demands not unreasonable, and the pecuniary questions he referred to ought to be considered. I observed that the arrangement depended on a general settlement of accounts, and I thought it unlikely the Sheikh would agree to one without the other. I asked him to come and see me after discussing the matter with the nephews, and to show me his proposals before submitting them to the Sheikh.

Yesterday Haji Mansur brought me his answer to Mubarek, and a document signed by the nephews, embodying their acceptance of the Sheikh's offer of the property, provided it was accompanied by a cash payment of £ T. 2,000 in settlement of past accounts. They renounced all share in the personal property of the family at Koweit, reserving only their legal interest in the reality which they had inherited there. This, I am informed, consists of a house and some shops, which cannot be sold or split up, and the nephews will receive their share of the yearly rental. They raised no objection to repaying their share of this year's taxes on the land they received.

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I then discussed Haji Mansur's covering letter to the Sheikh. He stated that the house at Zeyn was old and worth nothing like £ T. 2,000. It was built from the common fund, and was not therefore Mubarek's private property. In his reply Haji Mansur suggested that it should be valued and thrown in with the rest of the property for division. As regards the money deposited in Bombay, he stated that the document referred to by Mubarek afforded no clue, and he himself had no information on the subject. The nephews said they had no interests there, and the matter is presumably a financial transaction between Mubarek and Yusuf Ibrahim, and as such hardly enters into the present controversy. Haji Mansur omitted to refer to it in his reply, and I drew his attention to the omission, observing that Mubarek seemed to attach importance to the point, and made a settlement of all accounts one of the conditions of his acceptance. As, however, the matter appeared to lie between the Sheikh and Yusuf, I said I was ready to suggest a reference to the Courts in Bombay, where the money was said to be deposited, in case the difference could not be arranged in any other way. Haji Mansur also proposed that any balance due to either side after valuation of the properties should be paid in cash. This will obviate any division of the Sheikh's private property at Dowasir, in the event of the land assigned to the nephews being less than the equivalent of their share of Fao. If it is more they, on their side, agree to pay the difference.

There remains the question of the £ T. 2,000 which the nephews claim in settlement of past accounts. Mubarek says the balance due to them is small, as they have already received money on account, and he has paid their father's debts. They, on the other hand, contend that they are entitled to at least that amount, and Haji Mansur supports this view. Without seeing a statement of the account it is impossible to express an opinion, but I am inclined to regard the matter more as a bonus or a compromise than any stated balance due on adjustment of accounts. It must be remembered that some years ago when a settlement was first proposed, Mubarek offered his nephews 35 per cent. of the properties in dispute, which was refused. They now accept 25 per cent. only, and I conclude from this, and from what Haji Mansur tells me, that the Sheikh is a considerable gainer by the present arrangement. Under these circumstances, and in view of Mubarek's interests here, it may be worth his while to purchase tranquillity at the price of £ T. 2,000. Such an act of generosity on his part would undoubtedly tend to smooth the way, and I have intimated this to him in my letter.

As Haji Mansur asked me to write to the Sheikh I did so, and read over my letter to him, which I have now forwarded to the British Resident at Bushire for transmission. I have the honour to inclose a translation of this letter for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Mr. Crow to the Sheikh of Koweit.

(Translation.)
(After Compliments.)

Bussorah, August 10, 1903.

I HAVE received the copy of your Excellency's letter to Haji Mansur, dated the 24th Reb-ul-Sani (19th July, 1903), and have understood its contents. I am glad your Excellency approves of Haji Mansur's proposal regarding the division of the property. Your nephews will pay their share of this year's taxes on the property assigned to them. With regard to what your Excellency says about your house at Zeyn, that it is your own private property, and that it cost 120,000 krans, has your Excellency any papers in support of this contention? As regards the deposits your Excellency mentions in Yusuf Ibrahim's house of business at Bombay, this appears to be a question between yourself and him, and it would be better that it should not enter into the present arrangement. If there is a difference on the subject between you, it would be easier and better to settle it through the Courts in Bombay. Your nephews also beg for £ T. 2,000 in settlement of past accounts, and I am informed by Haji Mansur that this is just and reasonable. If this question refers to accounts, what is right will appear from an examination of them between you, and I am unable to express an opinion without seeing them. But, as your Excellency says, there is still a sum due to them, you may be disposed to grant

them what they ask, more especially as they stand in need of your assistance, and your Excellency's generosity is well known. If your Excellency agrees to this it will, I think, cause general satisfaction, and will not be unfavourable to your Excellency's interests here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 81.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 566.)

Therapia, September 16, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 344 of the 16th June, and to previous correspondence respecting the arbitration to settle the dispute between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews, I am happy to be able to report that, according to a telegram I have received from the Acting British Consul at Bussorah dated the 12th instant, a settlement of the dispute has been effected by amicable compromise under the supervision of the Consulate.

Mr. Crow adds that both the parties are satisfied, and have signed the agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 82.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 30.)

(No. 55.)

Bussorah, August 31, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Excellency's information, the translation of a letter addressed by the Sheikh of Koweit to His Majesty's Resident at Bushire, together with that of a telegram sent by Mubarek to the Grand Vizier on the 4th July.

I would refer your Excellency to my telegrams No. 41 of the 15th June and No. 57 of the 16th July last.

The Sheikh sent two telegrams to Constantinople respecting his Agent, the first about the 10th June, and the second, of which the inclosed purports to be a copy, on the 4th July.

It is hard to say whether reliance may be placed on the correctness of this copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Mubarek-el-Sabah to Captain de Vere Hunt.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

14 Jemad-el-Awal, 1321 (August 8, 1903).

I HAVE received your letter, dated the 9th Jemad-el-Awal, 1321 (3rd August last), in which you inform me that I had sent a telegram to Constantinople, and that the Ambassador wished to see a copy of it. As desired by you, I inclose herewith a copy word by word in Arabic.

Last year when I was in Mohammerah my protégé, Abdul Aziz, sent me his brother to inform me of the hardship and oppression to which he was subjected in the prison, and to ask me to represent his case to Constantinople.

I consulted the (British) Consul at Mohammerah, and he replied that he had no code-book to enable him to refer to the Consul at Bushire, and that delay would occur if communication were made by letter, but that if the telegram was not a compromising one, and only related to the state of my protégé, there was no objection to its dispatch. I accordingly sent the telegram from Fao last year. On account of the heat of this summer, and the hardship, &c., which he undergoes in prison, I sent a telegram of

which I inclose a copy. My affairs and my dependents are under the protection of the British Government.

I do not wish to write to Constantinople or Bussorah, because I see that if I do write I draw enmity towards me, but I was obliged to send the telegram on account of the wailings of this poor man who is undergoing all these hardships in the prison without any cause, who belongs to a good family, and who is of a weak constitution. At the time of his imprisonment I had written to you, and sent you a copy of the inquiry proceedings.

The Agent whom I had appointed at Fao to live in my house there after the departure of my brother, and who was known to all the Turkish officers, and who had been living there for twenty-five years, was first imprisoned and then enlisted into the army, and my house remained uncared for for days before I could appoint another man.

Further, on account of the disrespect shown to my brother Jaber by the Wali of Bussorah and the Mudir of Fao, I have this year deferred sending him to Fao. I have only sent servants, and this year my property remained uncared for. All these wrongs have no cause or reason which I can communicate to you.

We should remain in ease as we are under your protection, yet things happen to me which are unjust. I have full hopes that you will not be willing to see these things befalling me.

You have stated that a copy of the telegram is required for the information of the Ambassador. I request that a copy of this letter, or the original, may also be sent to his Excellency.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Mubarek-el-Sabah to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

(After compliments.)

8 Rabi-el-Thani, 1321 (July 4, 1903).

MY trustworthy Abdul Aziz Salem, Bedr of Bussorah, and his forefathers have rendered good services and received thanks and commendations. Because he is connected with me, enemies have slandered him and brought false charges against him, which have caused the passing of oppressive orders on him. They have achieved their object. On account of my sincere prayers and my good services for His Holiness (the Sultan) which are known to the Government officers and are officially proved, it is incumbent that my protégé should be treated with kindness in the same way as of others. This is what is hoped for Abdul Aziz, because he is connected with me, is subjected to this treatment, which is opposed to the Royal Grace and the Sovereign's favour which is current among all the people: it is also opposed to your kindness, which is well known, and which is proved to me.

For this reason I have petitioned, and request that you will kindly have the Royal pardon granted to him, because he has done nothing to give cause for the same (the treatment), but is wholly due to the work of enemies.

I request that you will endeavour to bring about the proper cause for his being pardoned.

I remain ever your well-wisher and grateful.

No. 83.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 30.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, August 31, 1903.

I HAVE received a letter from the Sheikh of Koweit, of which I inclose a translation, in answer to mine of the 10th August, of which I forwarded a copy to your Excellency in my despatch No. 47, Confidential, of the 11th August. Sheikh Mubarek agrees to settle his pecuniary differences with Yousif-el-Ibrahim independently, and, by his adhesion to the draft Agreement of which he sent me a copy, he will pay his nephews 2,000*l.* in cash in settlement of past accounts, and waive his claim to the house at Kut-el-Zeyn. I think we may regard these as considerable concessions on the Sheikh's part.

The only remaining point is the common property at Koweit. This, according to Mubarek, consists of two houses, bequeathed respectively by Jaber and Sabah, the Sheikh's grandfather and father, and now occupied by members of the Sabah family, which they are unwilling to part with or divide, and eighteen shops, twelve of which are vakouf, and their rental assigned to mosques, and the remaining six common property, and capable of division. The Sheikh wishes his nephews to sever all connection with Koweit, and proposes, if they attach importance to the six shops, to have them valued, and pay them their share in cash, and expects them to waive their claim to the rest.

I urged on Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas, who exercises great influence over the nephews, the propriety of their acceding to the Sheikh's wishes in the matter, more especially in view of the pecuniary concessions which Mubarek is now making, and asked him to modify the text of the Agreement relative to the property accordingly before returning it to the Sheikh.

Abdul Wahab replied that he was ready to do as I wished, and that the nephews would agree to whatever he suggested; and he informed me that he had inserted an additional clause at the end of the draft Agreement, leaving the valuation of the Koweit properties entirely to the Sheikh's discretion, and that Hadji Mansur had returned the document to Mubarek for signature.

I should have preferred modifying the terms of the Agreement, as the Sheikh asked, instead of merely adding an explanatory note at the end, but the Arbitrators think what has been done will meet the case, and sent on the document without consulting me further in the matter.

I have written the Sheikh a letter, of which I inclose a translation, approving the concessions he has made, and his proposal to sever all future connection between the nephews and Koweit, by indemnifying them in cash for their landed interests there, and expressing my confidence in his sense of justice to deal with the question fairly in his nephew's absence.

I support Mubarek's view in regard to the severance of all future business relations between the nephews' party and Koweit, because I think the complete adjustment of their differences can be secured in no other way, and such an arrangement will effectually bar any reopening of the present question. If the point remains unsettled, the parties will be unsettled too, and are likely to disagree again, and a quarrel may easily lead to Turkish interference with the Sheikh's property at Fao, on the ground that he is treating his nephews unfairly at Koweit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Mubarek-el-Sabah to Mr. Crow.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

27 Jemadi-ul-Evel (August 20, 1903).

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th August. I have read what you say with pleasure, and it is evident that I shall not disregard your advice. I do not want to punish the boys, but desire their comfort. The delay is on their side. As regards the money advanced to Yusuf-el-Ibrahim in Bombay, and that deposited with his brothers there, for all of which we hold receipts, the case can be dealt with in Bombay as you direct, I am satisfied. When this affair is finished, I will write to the Resident at Bushire about it. I have received a letter from Haji Mansur Chelebi, inclosing a deed of transfer. I have delayed sealing it because of the buildings at Koweit inserted in it. The matter is not worth mentioning, but it will lead to disputes, and God knows I want to finish things and have nothing more pending. If they will eliminate the Koweit buildings, I will sign the deed of transfer, and have it witnessed, and will send you a copy for your information, and keep one with me. I also send you copies of Haji Mansur's letter to me and of my answer, and of the deed of transfer which they sent me.

(L.S.) MUBAREK

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Mr. Crow to Mubarek-el-Sabah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Bussorah, August 31, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge to receipt of your Excellency's letter to me of 27th Jemadi-ul-Evvel (the 20th August, 1903), with its inclosures. I have read and understood what you say with pleasure. I note the concessions which your Excellency has made to your nephews, and approve the conciliatory spirit you have displayed.

I am quite of your Excellency's opinion, that the future welfare of your family will be best assured by the severance of all connection between your nephews and Koweit.

For this reason, I have recommended them to accede to your Excellency's wishes in regard to their interests in the Koweit properties, and to accept their due in money after valuation. The question of valuation has been left to your Excellency's discretion, and I rely on your Excellency's sense of justice to estimate and divide the properties at Koweit fairly in their absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 84.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 26.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, September 15, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram No. 67 of the 12th instant, informing your Excellency that a settlement of the questions pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews had been effected by an amicable compromise under the supervision of the Consulate.

I received a letter from Sheikh Mubarek, dated the 6th instant, in reply to mine of the 31st ultimo, a translation of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 56, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, informing me that he had sealed and returned the Agreement for the division of the property and had indorsed on it the value of the Koweit tenements, leaving his nephews to indicate the amount due to them.

This settles the dispute in regard to all questions pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews. I must admit that the value of the Koweit buildings, as given by Mubarek—700l.—appears to me exceedingly low, but the nephews are not inclined to dispute it, so I have let it pass.

Haji Mansur was away from Bussorah when the letter reached me. I had him recalled and notified the nephews' party of their uncle's final adherence to the Agreement. The nephews, after consulting their advisers, sealed the document with their witnesses, in the presence of my dragoman, who represented me, Haji Mansur, and Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas, and then proceeded to the Serai to tender their congratulations to the Vali.

I am informed that the Vali will call a meeting of the six Arbitrators and go through the formality of getting them to affix their seals to the deed, in confirmation of the arrangement.

The properties will now be surveyed and valued and a formal deed of transfer executed by the parties before the Sher' authorities. This cannot be done till the date season is over, and may take two or three months.

I have offered the good offices of the Consulate to Haji Mansur and Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas in the event of any dispute arising in regard to the execution of the settlement.

I inclose a translation of the Agreement as signed by the parties, which Sheikh Mubarek has sent me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Agreement respecting the Sheikh of Koweit and his Nephews.

(Translation.)

THIS day Sheikh Mubarek-es-Sabah transfers to the sons of his deceased brother, Mohamed Pasha-es-Sabah, namely, to Sabah, in his own right, and as legal trustee for his brothers and his cousins, children of his uncle, the late Jerrah, minors, and as legal representative of the heirs of Mohamed and Jerrah aforesaid and of the heirs of the late Ali-el-Jaber of the Sabah family, and to Saoud, in his own right, all those portions of the estate of the late Mohamed Pasha and Jerrah-es-Sabah, which they bequeathed in their own right, and such as were inherited by them from the late Jaber-es-Sabah, both real and personal property and all and everything described as inheritance as follows:—

The children aforesaid and the persons whom they represent and for whom they are trustees shall receive one whole and undivided fourth part of the date plantations situated in the ward of Fao, depending on Bussorah, together with one of two lots ("hoz") situated at Fao aforesaid, and also one-fourth part of the entire date garden of Sofieh. And the children aforesaid shall receive two-thirds entire of the date gardens situated at Gheridlan, and at Zeyn, and at Ajerawiyeh, less one-sixth which appertains to their grandmother, the mother of the transferer aforesaid, together with 2,000 liras, which their uncle Mubarek Pasha will pay them in cash. But the landed estate at Koweit, shared in common by all the heirs of Jaber-es-Sabah, and that possessed in common and in thirds by Mohamed, Jerrah, and Mubarek, shall remain, as at present, in common, without detriment to the rights of the heirs of Mohamed and Jerrah, and is not included in the present transfer. And as regards the money and debts due, and arms, and horses, and cattle, and ships, the children have no share or part in them whatsoever, and their uncle is fully and completely released from all liability, and claim, and demand as regards them. Then, after conclusion of this Agreement and legal transfer in the manner stated, it is agreed by the two parties to the transfer that Mubarek aforesaid shall give his nephews, in exchange for the fourth part of the Fao date gardens allotted to them, as stated above, three-fourths of the date plantations of Sofieh, and the third portion appertaining to him, together with the sixth portion belonging to his mother and her children Mohamed and Jerrah, of the date gardens at Gherdilan and Ajerawiyeh and Zeyn, after valuation by experts. And if the value of these properties is less than the fourth part of Fao, Mubarek will pay the difference in cash, and Fao shall hereafter belong to him entirely. But if the shares in the said properties shall exceed in value the fourth of Fao, the children shall pay for the surplus in cash, and shall enjoy full possession of the properties aforesaid. After signing these presents the parties shall appear in person or by attorney at the Court of the Sher' at Bussorah and execute and ratify the transfer.

Add.—The valuation of the above-stated landed properties at Koweit shall be at the will of our uncle Mubarek Pasha, and in accordance with his estimate each person interested shall receive his due. This additional clause has been written with the consent of the parties in explanation of the above.

	Dols.
Value of the properties at Koweit—	
Our grandfather's house (the late Jaber-es-Sabah), including the reception rooms	1,400
Our father, Sabah's house, in which we all live, and to which we have added, including reception rooms	4,000
Small house opposite to it	200
Eighteen shops	1,800
Total	7,400

These are all the tenements we hold from the heirs of Jaber and Sabah. You are aware what is the amount due from these sums to our son Sabah and his brothers, and Saoud and the sons of Jerrah, and the heirs of our uncle the late Ali-el-Jaber.

Inform us, that we may know.

(Signed) MUBAREK-ES-SABAH.

14 Jemadi es Tani, 1321
(September 6, 1903).

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 674. Secret.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 16, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 234, Secret, of the 20th August, respecting the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.

In view of the desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, I think that the necessities of the case will be met by their decision that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. But I venture at the same time to urge the importance of this understanding being carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 86.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, November 3.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, October 7, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 65, Confidential, of the 15th September last, I have the honour to inclose a translation of the clause added at Bussorah to the transfer agreement, referred to in my despatch, and signed by the nephews of Mubarek-es-Sabah, notifying their acceptance of the Agreement and the division of the Koweit properties as valued by their uncle Mubarek.

The Sheikh has already sent 1,000*l.* to Bussorah for his nephews.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Translation of clause added to the transfer Agreement signed by the Nephews of Mubarek-es-Sabah.

Value of the Koweit properties—		French dollars.
1st. Value of our great grandfather's house, Jaber-es-Sabah	1,400
Also our late father's house and reception rooms	4,000
Also a small house opposite	200
Also eighteen shops	1,800
		7,400

This is the correct value of all the tenements belonging to the heirs of the late Jaber and Sabah as stated above. Seven thousand four hundred French dollars. We agree to this valuation and accept that to which we are entitled to only of this amount according to our shares, and there remains to us beyond this no right in or lien on all the Koweit properties. And we have no right of objection in any way whatsoever. In testimony of the above, this 19th day of Jemadi-ul-Akhir 1321.

(Signed and sealed)

SAOUD-BIN-MOHAMED-ES-SABAH.
SABAH-BIN-MOHAMED-ES-SABAH.

Witnessed by

ABDUL WAHAB-EL-KERTAS.
ALI MOHAMED-ES-SABAH.
MANSUR-EL-HAJI SULMAN.

This Agreement was executed in the presence of my Dragoman who represented me in accordance with the Embassy's instructions in regard to supervision.

(Signed)

F. E. CROW

October 7, 1903.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 1st October, relative to a raid alleged to have been made by the Sheikh of Koweit upon a section of the Shammar Arabs.

India Office, November 14, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

Shiraz, September 3, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch addressed to my First Assistant by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, relating to a raid alleged to have been made by the Sheikh of Koweit upon a section of the Shammar Arabs.

2. The information received by the Consul appears to be unconfirmed, except from Turkish sources, but it agrees so nearly with that contained in entry No. 13 of the Political Diary of this Residency for the week ending the 12th June, 1903, to which I beg to invite your attention, that it is probable that something of the kind occurred.

3. Sheikh Mubarek, as the Government of India is aware, has on several occasions been warned to abstain from any aggressive action likely to embroil him with the Turkish authorities.

I am again addressing him on the subject, and asking him to give me the true particulars of the affair with the Beni Twala, the presence in whose midst of his malcontent relative Mubarek-el-Athabi seems to me not without significance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Mr. Crow to Captain Hunt.

Sir,

Bussorah, August 17, 1903.

I HAVE received a despatch, dated the 13th July, from His Majesty's Ambassador, in which his Excellency draws attention to the alleged raid by the Sheikh of Koweit against the Beni Twala of the Shammar Arabs in May last.

According to information received here, and which the Vali confirmed, Mubarek attacked the Beni Twala and captured 800 (*sic*) camels from them at Khamissye, near Ghabishiye, some ten hours from Zobeir, in a south-west direction. His malcontent relative, Mubarek-el-Athbi of Zobeir, who accompanied the Beni Twala, escaped. When Mr. Lyle visited Koweit in June, I asked him to try and ascertain what had occurred. Mr. Lyle reported to me that he could obtain no accurate information in regard to the raid, but that a large number of camels and cattle had recently been brought into Koweit, and, from what he had observed, he had little doubt that something of the sort had taken place.

His Majesty's Ambassador desires me to bring the reported raid to your notice, as it is evident that while forbidding the Turks to attack or molest Mubarek, we are under the obligation to see that he does not wilfully provoke aggression.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

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No. 88.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 762.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 17, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 112 of the 18th July last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting the movements of the Amir of Nejd towards Koweit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 72.)

Sir,

Bussorah, October 21, 1903.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 59 of the 17th July last, I am informed that Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud has left Riad for Shakra, and that the ex-Sheikhs of Kassim are ready to leave Koweit to join him. The Amir is reported to be near Zulfee, a distance of two days to the north-east of Shakra.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 89.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 773.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 18, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 752 of the 11th instant, reporting disturbances in the Vilayet of Bussorah, I have the honour to state that, according to a telegram just received from Mr. Acting Consul Crow, the Vali with three battalions of troops attacked the Muntefik Arabs and defeated Sadun who took to flight.

The authorities have requested the Sheikh of Koweit not to shelter the fugitive. The Sheikh is said to be raiding Shamar.

It is, I venture to think, most desirable that the Viceroy, when he goes to Koweit, should make the Sheikh understand the difficulty of effectually protecting him if he allows his allies to join in attacks upon neighbouring Chieftains, or still more if he takes part in such expeditions himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 90.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1903.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, communicating rumours as to aggressive action by the Sheikh of Koweit, and suggesting that the Viceroy of India should, when he visits Koweit, point out to the Sheikh the difficulty of effectually protecting him if he countenances or joins in attacks upon neighbouring tribes.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in this recommendation, and I am to suggest that it should be communicated to his Excellency by telegraph if Mr. Secretary Brodrick sees no objection.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

• No. 89.

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No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 26th November, relative to reported aggressive action by the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, November 28, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 91.

*Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.**India Office, November 26, 1903.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

IN view of the rumours as to the aggressive action on the part of the Koweit Sheikh, a suggestion has been made by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that you should warn the Sheikh that, if he participates in or countenances any attacks upon the tribes in his vicinity, it will be difficult to protect him effectually. I shall be glad if you will make a representation to the Sheikh in the sense suggested, which meets with the concurrence of Lord Lansdowne. Reference is invited to the letter of the 3rd September from Colonel Kemball, which formed inclosure of letter of the 1st October from the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

No. 92.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 826.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 15, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 773 of the 18th ultimo and 810 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah concerning the recent disturbances among the Montefik Arabs.

Mr. Crow also informs me, with regard to the attack reported to have been made recently on the Shamar Arabs by the Sheikh of Koweit, that he learns that the latter attacked and plundered the Arabs in question at Jileyda, a place lying three days from Koweit on the road to Nejd.

Mr. Crow adds that he has communicated this information to the British Resident at Bushire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 78.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 16, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 75, as to trouble with the Montefik Arabs, I learn that Sadun Pasha has returned to his property at Sakharieh, a place near the Euphrates between Nassiriejeh and Kamisieh, and has telegraphed to Constantinople throwing all blame on a certain Kol-Aghassi, killed in the action with Turkish troops, reported in my telegram No. 69 of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 93.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 836.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 21, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 826 of the 15th instant, respecting the recent disturbances among the Montefik tribes, I have the honour to report that having heard from the Sublime Port that trouble was still being given by Sadun Pasha's party, I inquired as to the facts of His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, who informs me by telegraph that Sadun Pasha is near Koweit, and that General Muhammad Pasha Daghestani, with 1,200 troops from Bagdad, is at Zobeir awaiting instructions from Constantinople.

The local authorities are inclined to attribute the agitation to the intrigues of the Sheikh of Koweit, but this is unlikely, as Sadun and the Sheikh are not on friendly terms at present.

Mr. Crow adds that the Arabs of El Hassa are reported to have risen, but that he has no details.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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